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OPINION METER

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CUC's explanation why it is
asking for an increase in
its electric base rates?

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FROM \$132M TO \$122M

More cuts in 2011 budget

» Allotment reduction at 9.76 percent
» Projected deficit seen at \$10.565M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Government agencies will have to further cut their spending after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial revised yesterday the current fiscal year's budget to reflect a \$10.565 million reduction in projected revenue.

As a result, the fiscal year 2011 budget is now only \$122 million, down from \$132 million provided for in the budget law, Public Law 17-21.

The governor is proposing to the Legislature an "immediate proportional cut of 9.76 percent" in the allotment of all CNMI government offices.

Last week, the administration said the allotment cut would be 7.9 percent, but this has since been deemed too small to address the projected \$10.565 million deficit.

The allotment cut takes effect on April 1 up to the end of fiscal year 2011 on Sept. 30.

See **MORE CUTS** on **Page 4**

11-pct. decline in Feb. arrivals

Tourist arrivals in the CNMI were already down even before the 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan on March 11.

Based on the latest figures, visitor arrivals to the islands in February were down 11 percent compared to February 2010. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals in February reached just 33,659, fewer by 4,191 when compared to the 37,850 posted in February 2010.

February arrivals from Japan fell 9 percent to 17,450 visitors due to a

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DANCING IN THE RAIN

Cultural dancers brave the heavy downpour as they perform for a crowd of children and adults taking cover under makeshift tents at the "Join Us Help Japan" fundraiser that the NMI-Japan Disaster Relief organized on Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base. Across the CNMI, groups and individuals have been raising funds to help Japan recover from a devastating March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

DUE TO LACK OF A TRACKING SYSTEM

CUC overbilled gov't by \$200,000 in Dec.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. admitted overbilling the government by about \$200,000 in December 2010, an error it blamed on not having a tracking system in place.

CUC chief financial officer Charles H. Warren disclosed this in his March 9 testimony to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, explaining the immediate need of the agency to have a computer-based tracking system to avert the same error.

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'Fly Micronesia targets 3 planes by June 2011'

» **Fly Guam now has 3 weekly roundtrip flights to NMI**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority expects some additional flights to the CNMI within the year after Fly Micronesia informed the agency of its plan to bring in

three new planes by June 2011.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio also told *Saipan Tribune* that Fly Micronesia's first plane—Fly Guam—has increased its air service for its weekly Saipan-Guam-Hong Kong routes.

From the initial two roundtrip weekly

schedule, the new airline is now servicing the Saipan route with three regular roundtrip services, excluding one-way trips on some days.

Tenorio said that, based on MVA's initial discussion with company officials, the second plane will also carry the name Fly Guam, while the third plane will be

See **PLANES** on **Page 4**



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Local

Oleai school snags Parade of Books trophy

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Their vibrant costumes, impressive props, and dynamic presentation earned Oleai Elementary School students the grand prize trophy and cash prize of \$1,000 in the 7th Annual Parade of Books held Saturday at the Marianas High School gymnasium.

The 47-member team bested eight other schools after impressing the three judges with their remarkable interpretation of *Mulan*, a tale of a Chinese female warrior, garnering a total score of 146 points.

Criteria for judging consisted of creativity, length of performance (strictly five minutes and below), enthusiasm of performers, and overall adherence to the theme.

The OES team also brought home the Best in Choreography Award, which won them an overnight stay at Pacific Islands Club.

OES' victory comes after a stunning defeat to Garapan Elementary School in 2010. Last year's defending champion bagged third place with 135 points for their interpretation of *Pocahontas*. The group won \$500 and a trophy.

Koblerville Elementary School was once again named the second best team and won a trophy and cash prize of \$750 after receiving 139 points—four points ahead of GES—for their performance of *Anastasia* by Vladimir Megre.

Dandan Elementary School, which acted out *I Wish I Were a Butterfly*, secured the Most Spirit Award and took home 30 PIC Water Park passes.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Oleai Elementary School students are all smiles after they were named the first place winner in the annual Parade of Books held Saturday at the Marianas High School gymnasium. OES bested eight other schools and also took home the Best in Choreography Award.

Other participating schools in this year's event were Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, which presented *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*; Tinian Elementary School, *The Chinese Mirror*; Green Meadow School, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*; Kagman Elementary School, *Cinderella*, and Golden Harvest International School, *Little Mermaid*.

'A lot of work'

Jasylene Parico, a Reading Resources teacher at OES and one of the three directors, said this year's competition entailed a lot of work, especially for the students from second to sixth grades.

"We really tried our best. The students always got tired from practice that we had to lift their spirits every time," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the team took a month to rehearse and two weeks to create the props.

According to Parico, their

performance was entirely a group effort. "The teachers, parents, students, community members—everybody chipped in and were all generous to make this a success," she said.

Fourth grader Ainah Chargualaf, who played the role of one of the royal ladies, said they were all very happy with their victory.

"We all crossed our fingers and prayed to God, 'Lord, I really hope we win,'" said the 9-year old Chargualaf, adding that she will get pizza to celebrate their victory.

Ann Margaret Norcio, who played the role of Mulan the princess, said this was her third time to join the competition.

"Our group won because of all the hard work we put in the presentation. We always try our best. It was really hard but it all paid off because we won," said the sixth grader.

OES principal Glenn Muña, who was clad in a traditional

Chinese garb, said he expected the team to win because they deserved it.

"They've been putting a lot of hours just to practice, with the help of both the teachers and the students. They really deserve this," he said.

Muña acknowledged the Chinese Association of Saipan, which provided most of the Chinese costumes used for their performance.

According to Muña, the prize money will be used to support the reading campaign for students of OES.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Saipan, Parade of Books is an annual literacy program that features schools competing for cash prizes by interpreting their favorite book through a creative performance.

"Year after year, performances are getting better and better. It was a good turnout," said coordinator Jeff Boyer.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

\$6-million In Free Tourism Publicity in February 2011

In addition to its paid promotions in Japan and Korea, the **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** communicates with numerous media contacts each month to generate additional free media coverage for Northern Mariana Islands. In February 2011, those efforts translated to over \$6-million in unpaid publicity for the islands.

In Japan, 273 publications, websites, and broadcast programs featured stories on the Northern Marianas, reaching an estimated 171-million people. In Korea, 66 media outlets featured stories reaching about 51-million people.

One of the biggest single public relations coverage was \$2.9-million television coverage by **NTV's "Hashiru no Susume!"** The show, with a viewership of 4-million, presented celebrity runner **Kanpei Hazama** and friends visiting Saipan for a practice run of the **Saipan Marathon** scheduled for March 5, sharing running tips, and experiencing numerous activities on islands. The Northern Marianas also received extensive coverage of the movie **"Oba, The Last Samurai,"** including **NEWS ZERO's** spin-off documentary with lead actor **Yutaka Takenouchi**. The documentary, with an estimated ad exposure value of \$2.4-million, featured Takenouchi in Saipan reporting on the island's historical battle during World War II.

The MVA's offices in Japan and Korea actively engage media outlets each month to secure additional ad exposure for the Northern Marianas by arranging media FAM(liarization) tours to the islands or providing other information and assistance.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY '11 Second General Membership on Thursday, April 07, 2011 at the Claret, Fiesta Resort and Spa at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and adoption of the FY '11 1st Meeting Minutes (01/19/11)
- V. Reports
 - a. OVR Director
 - b. Council Liaison
 - c. SRC Chair
 - d. Sub-Committee
 - e. Travel Report
- VI. Old Business
 - Public Forum
 - Needs Assessment
 - HB 17-43
- VII. New Business
 - SRC Training
 - High Tech Info
- VIII. Consumer Forum
 - Ms. Helen Sablan-Medicaid Services and Benefits
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Jesus M. Elameto
CHAIRMAN

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan World Resort general manager Myung Wook Park, third from right, hands a check donation worth \$10,260 to Japan Consul to the Northern Mariana Islands Tsutomu Higuchi in a presentation at the Consular Office of Japan yesterday afternoon. From left, director of Administration Jake Park; Sales and Marketing manager for local market Mike Babauta; Higuchi; Park; Human Resources manager Miriam Seman; and Sales and Marketing manager for Japanese market Juko Ishikawa.

Saipan World Resort donates \$10,260 to Japan relief effort

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The staff and management of Saipan World Resort has joined the rest of the community in providing relief assistance to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami devastation in Japan.

General manager Myung Wook Park presented a check donation worth \$10,260 to Japan Consul to the Northern Mariana Islands Tsutomu Higuchi at the Consular Office yesterday afternoon.

"We express our deep regret to the Japanese people for this disaster. We hope this donation would give hope to them," Park said as he handed the check to Higuchi.

Other Saipan World Resort executives who witnessed the presentation were director of Administration Jake Park, Human Resources manager Miriam Seman, Sales and Marketing manager for the Japanese market Juko Ishikawa, Sales and Marketing manager for the local market Mike Babauta, and special project manager Jun Ham.

In an interview, the general manager said the management decided to match over \$5,000 raised by Saipan World Resort employees.

"Although we know about the relationship between Korea and Japan, in the face of a disaster, we are all human beings and we need to support one

another. I hope the Saipan community will participate in the relief efforts for Japan," Park told *Saipan Tribune*.

He urged the public to become a "good Samaritan" in light of the Japan devastation.

For his part, Higuchi expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude to the staff and management of Saipan World Resort.

"Today, 24 days have passed since the tragedy. However, we still don't know the exact damage of the earthquake and tsunami," he said.

Higuchi said the latest media reports state that more than 12,000 people are dead and 18,000 are still missing due to the twin tragedy that caused massive destruction in the northeastern part of Japan.

"The number continues to increase," he added.

Higuchi said over 200,000 evacuees who lost their homes, apartments, jobs, and properties have no food to eat, no water to drink, and no house to live in because of what happened.

"This money will be used to purchase fundamental items needed for their survival," he said.

Higuchi disclosed that the donation will be turned over to the Japan chapter of the American Red Cross.

"Japan will recover from this tragedy. Everything will go back to normal soon," he added.



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18-percent drop in March vehicle sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Auto dealers sold only 47 new cars, trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles in March, an 18-percent drop from 57 units sold in the same month last year as the economic decline continues.

This brings to 131 the number of new vehicles sold since the start of 2011, also a 28-percent drop from the same quarter in 2010, based on the

Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association's report released yesterday.

The three-member CADA also sold 17 used or secondhand vehicles in March, bringing to 61 the total units sold since Jan. 1.

Joeten Motors topped the sales chart in March, with 22 new Nissan, Ford and Kia units sold. Joeten Motors is also the authorized dealer of Honda.

This marked a 29-percent increase in Joeten Motors' sales compared to

March 2010. However, its year-to-date sales posted a 22-percent drop, from 60 to 47.

Micro Corp., which is the authorized dealer of Toyota and Chevrolet, sold 20 new Toyotas in March, a 39-percent decrease from the same month last year.

Its year-to-date sales marked a 42-percent drop from the same quarter in 2010.

Triple "J" Motors, meanwhile,

was able to sell only five Hyundai, Suzuki and Mazda units last month, a 29-percent drop from the same period last year.

Triple "J," which is also the authorized dealer of Mitsubishi and Isuzu, however, posted a year-to-date sales increase of 3 percent, from 30 to 31.

Of the 47 new vehicles sold in March, 17 were cars, 15 were vans, 14 were SUVs, and one was a van.

Among cars, Kia Soul sold the most

with five units, followed by Toyota Corolla with four, and Toyota Yaris, three. Also sold were two units each of Kia Rio and Mazda3, and one Nissan Altima.

Ford Ranger was the most saleable truck in March with eight units sold, followed by Toyota Tacoma, five, and Nissan Frontier, two.

Among SUVs, Toyota 4 Runner sold the most with six units. Other SUVs sold were Nissan Rogue, three; Hyundai Tucson, two; and one unit each of Suzuki G. Vitara, Toyota Highlander, and Toyota RAV4.

Only one Nissan Quest was sold among vans in March.

Sgt. Guerrero, 5 other cops testify in discrimination suit vs DPS

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

James C. Deleon Guerrero, the police sergeant who is suing the Department of Public Safety in the Superior Court for alleged discrimination in its promotion and hiring practices, took the witness stand yesterday to recount the incidents that prompted him to file a grievance against the department.

Deleon Guerrero's lawyer, Robert T. Torres, also called to the witness stand sergeants Vicente H. Sablan, Elden Dela Cruz, Thomas Blas Jr., and Anthony Macaranas, and police officer 3 Juan Mendiola—all of them part of the 25 police officers who joined in Deleon

Guerrero's lawsuit.

They testified about the inequity and unfairness in the promotion and hiring of police officer Alfred Celes, and sergeants Paul Ogunoro and Vicente Tagabuel.

Deleon Guerrero will continue with his testimony on Wednesday.

Associate Judge David Wiseman has been conducting an evidentiary hearing.

Last February, Wiseman ruled that an issue of material fact still exists in the case of sergeants Paul Ogunoro and Vicente Tagabuel, since DPS asserts that the hiring of these two complied with the competitive selection process, while Deleon Guerrero and other officers provide contrary evidence show-

ing that Tagabuel's position was never announced, and that he was hired at Gov. Benigno Fitial's instructions.

Deleon Guerrero's testimony yesterday focused on his initial grievance: the "leapfrog" of Alfred Celes from police officer II to sergeant and an increase of \$15,000 in his salary.

The CNMI government, through assistant attorney general James T. Mitchell objected to relevance of the testimony since DPS had already demoted Celes back to police officer 2 in July 2010.

Deleon Guerrero acknowledged that his grievance was "moot" but he pointed out the promotion on November 2010 of Sgt. Eloy K. Fitial on Tinian to captain, leapfrogging over a lieu-

tenant position, unannounced—was a continuing basis for his grievance and concern.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that Fitial's promotion occurred even after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had already issued a directive to DPS to "comply" and follow Personnel Rules.

Deleon Guerrero testified that no one at DPS follows the rules and that they aren't listening even to the governor.

After the hearing, Torres said the evidentiary hearing and testimony reveals that the concerns of Sgt. Guerrero's

grievance are not moot but remain viable and of great concern to him and the many other officers within DPS.

Torres said they turned to the court for remedy because Sgt. Guerrero's grievances and objections were ignored.

"We look forward to presenting the testimony and advocate for a remedy which is fair, consistent, and appropriate in reviewing an agency's inaction relating to civil service employees inclusive of DPS and Office of Personnel Management," Torres said.

CUC

From Page 1

Warren said the computer and other equipment needs of the agency is crucial to meeting the requirements of stipulated order 1 by next year.

"A computer system is essential, both because it encompasses requirements of stipulated order No. 1 that CUC implement a computer-based tracking system, and because CUC needs to upgrade its billing system and practices. For example, right now CUC generates stacks of paper adjustments to bills," said Warren.

"In December alone, there were \$200,000 in over-billings for water to the central government, which all had to be reconciled individually. The amount

of time and effort spent on reviewing and re-doing paperwork makes it difficult for CUC to function and properly collect its billings," he added.

Besides this, Warren said it is also crucial for CUC to procure heavy trucks such as bucket trucks, augurs, and boom trucks. He estimated that some \$2 million is needed for this requirement alone.

Under stipulated order 2, which pertains to oil management requirements, Warren said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is requiring CUC to undertake about \$16 million worth of capital improvement projects. These include the replacement of the pipeline that transports oil from CUC's supplier at the Saipan dock to Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

He said the pipeline project is the

highest priority item that must be addressed. Other priority requirements under SO 2 include tank cleanup and replacement, and remediation of power plants 1 and 2.

The commission has already approved the pipeline project and other SO2 projects, with a price ceiling on the pipeline project of \$2.45 million. CUC has yet to find funding for this project.

This was one of the reasons why CUC is petitioning to increase its electric base rate beginning May 11. The commission will decide on the matter after its April 11 meeting and public hearing.

CUC officials had cited in their separate testimonies that the lack of funds continue to hamper the agency's efforts to meet stipulated order requirements.

MORE CUTS

From Page 1

"I realize that this reduced budget allocation will have a significant impact on government operations and services. However, the current financial condition of the CNMI requires that we quickly realign government spending with available resources," Fitial said in yesterday's letter to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

The projected monthly allotment beginning in April will only be over \$9.354 million from the previous amount of almost \$11 million, to be able to stretch the over \$56.126 million balance that has yet to be allotted to all agencies budgeted under the general fund.

Fitial said in order to meet this challenge, agencies and activities must examine their operations and activities and identify areas where they may be cut or eliminated altogether.

"We must continue to provide essential services related to public health and public safety, but there are many areas of operations where costs can be

curtailed. As community leaders, the people of the Commonwealth are relying on us to make the proper decisions necessary to reduce the overall cost of government operations," he told lawmakers.

The governor and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos met yesterday afternoon with Manglona and other senators to discuss the 2011 budget, as well as the 2012 budget of \$102 million he submitted to the Legislature on Friday.

Today, Fitial and Inos will try to meet with House members on the same issues.

Fitial, in his letter, seeks "legislative concurrence so that the effect of this reduction will be reflected in the budget authority remaining for the fiscal year."

A legislative concurrence is required by Section 402 of PL 17-21.

Manglona, in an interview after the meeting with Fitial and Inos, said the reduction in budget estimate "gives more reason" for the Senate, House, the administration, and Delegate Gregorio Kili Sablan "to work together" so that the CNMI can weather this financial crisis.

"We are very fortunate because we have a congressman in Washington,

D.C. doing all he can to represent our interests in D.C.," Manglona said, adding that he personally witnessed Sablan's rapport with members of Congress.

Inos, in an interview after he and Fitial met with the senators, said the budget revision is needed to avoid a deficit.

"We can't go on deficit," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial, in his letter, said the Department of Finance's revised projection includes reduction in collections from wages and salary tax by \$5.946 million, other taxes by \$1.35 million, licenses and fees by \$525,000, charges for services by \$695,000, other revenues by \$294,000 and transfers in by \$1.755 million.

The governor said the difference of \$10.565 million "must be absorbed by the budget authority remaining for the fiscal year."

Inos reiterated that the cuts will be spread "across-the-board" except for constitutionally mandated salaries and other requirements.

Inos said it will be up to each government agency to decide where to cut, given their reduced monthly allotment.

PLANES

From Page 1

operating under the Fly Marianas banner.

The MVA chief disclosed that these three planes will be stationed and based in the Commonwealth.

"Our understanding was that by June 2011, they will have all three planes on the ground," said Tenorio.

On March 7, the maiden flight of Fly Guam carried 117 Hong Kong passengers to the islands. The aircraft is a Boeing 737-400 plane with 130-seat capacity. The new airline is using Freedom Air's hangar at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

Fly Guam joined Asiana Airlines and Delta Air Lines as official signatory air-

lines of the CNMI.

In the meantime, Tenorio said that MVA is still optimistic about the plans of Sichuan Airlines to service the CNMI.

"The airline is still very interested. It is still awaiting some federal approval and some requirements [to make it happen]," said Tenorio.

Sichuan Airlines Co. Ltd. has filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation an application to allow it to provide air services between the CNMI and China as early as February 2011.

The airline is based in Chengdu, the capital of the Sichuan Province. It has been in operation since 1988 and its fleet currently consists of 57 aircraft, with 29 additional aircraft on order for delivery through 2013.

DECLINE

From Page 1

decline in air seats. In February 2010, there were five daily flights to the Northern Marianas from Japan. In February 2011, there were only two daily flights and three weekly flights each from Osaka and Nagoya. Nagoya flights re-launched on Feb. 2, with three flights per week increasing to daily service in March despite the Japan earthquake and tsunami impacts. The Nagoya flights were scheduled to continue through April 3.

The CNMI has received over 2,600 cancellations from Japan following last month's earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis, and the MVA anticipates several months of unsettled arrivals moving forward.

The pace of cancellations peaked in the 10 days following the March 11, 2011, earthquake. Cancellations have been gradually returning to normal, but forward booking levels in April have been extremely low. Industry watchers anticipate that the Japan market will begin its long recovery at the end of April with Japan's traditional Golden Week holidays.

Meanwhile, February arrivals from South Korea posted another month of gain at 6 percent to 10,133, riding on the country's continued economic

strength. However, Asiana Airlines decreased Busan-Saipan flight service from four to two times weekly beginning March 23 to adjust airlift during the shoulder season.

The secondary market of China saw 3,962 arrivals in February, a 37-percent decrease compared to the same month last year. While the lunar New Year was celebrated in February again this year, there were fewer flights to the Northern Marianas from China for the holiday compared to last year.

Arrivals from Russia doubled in February, increasing 108 percent to 376 arrivals. The Russian ruble is stronger than it was a year ago, and several media familiarization tours in late 2010 helped spur interest in the travelling to the islands.

Visitor arrivals were 20 percent lower from Guam (987) due to a substantial reduction in air seats. For most of February, the NMI had only one flight per day from Guam, jet services by Continental Airlines providing 155 seats. This is opposed to the normal schedule of five or six flights per day with a total of 230-276 seats. This resulted in an 18-percent drop in air seats from Guam in February 2011 compared to February 2010.

Visitor arrivals were also lower from the United States (520), the Philippines (41), and other areas (144), while arrivals from Taiwan increased (23). (MVA)

CNMI joins voluntary recall of 2 products

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI, through the Bureau of Environmental Health, has joined the nationwide voluntary recall of two products due to a possible salmonella contamination.

Unilever United States Inc. announced in early March a limited recall of 16.3 oz jars of Skippy reduced fat creamy peanut butter spread because it may be contaminated with salmonella, an organism that can

cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems.

The voluntarily recall was conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Although the product was mainly distributed to retail outlets in major states in the U.S., BEH still inspected all Commonwealth stores to make sure that these were not being sold here.

Lily Kapileo of the BEH's investigation and inspection unit confirmed yesterday that the product was not in stock in the CNMI.

She disclosed that the bureau is now checking stores for another product after Louie Foods International voluntarily recalled on Friday a few hundred pounds of sprouts after a routine spot check by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found salmonella in a mixed package of alfalfa and clover sprouts.

The company announced the recall on March 30, indicating that Louie's brand sprouts with a use-by date of April 14 must be taken out of the market as a precautionary move, even though the USDA found salmonella in only one of their varieties.

Recalled products include Alfalfa Sprout Mix, 4 oz. cups (UPC 11324 04401); Alfalfa Sprout Mix, 16 oz. bags (UPC 11324 16401); Clover Sprouts, 4 oz. cups (UPC 11324 04406); Clover Sprouts, 16 oz. bags (UPC 11324 04406); Spicy Sprouts, 4 oz. cups (UPC 11325 04402); and Broccoli Sprouts, 4 oz. cups (UPC 11324 04407).

No illnesses have been reported as of yesterday, the company said.

BEH is still conducting inspections in the CNMI as of yesterday and will come up with a report soon, according to Kapileo.

Masseur, 65, mauled, robbed

» Ex-convict, teenager arrested

A 65-year-old masseur suffered multiple injuries after an ex-convict and a companion allegedly beat him up and robbed him in front of his house in San Antonio on Saturday night.

Guoxi Liang, a Chinese national, sustained multiple injuries in the face and head. His right eye was closed due to massive swelling. He complained of headache and pain.

The suspects—Nestor Taitano, 36, and Joshua Basaliso, 19—were arrested yesterday and Sunday for aggravated assault and battery, robbery, conspiracy, and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed yesterday a \$100,000 cash bail for Taitano, describing him as "extremely dangerous to the community" and citing his long criminal record.

Basaliso's bail was at \$25,000 cash.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a witness on Saturday night had heard Taitano suggesting to Basaliso that they beat up the "Chinese guy" because he had a lot of money.

Taitano and Basaliso then walked up to Liang, who was sitting outside his house next to Sunrise Store, and beat him up. Taitano then allegedly took the victim's wallet containing less than \$100 cash.

The witness later found Li-



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Guoxi Liang, a Chinese national, sustained multiple injuries in the face and head after being beaten up and robbed by two men in San Antonio Saturday night.

ang already bleeding and asking for help.

Saipan Tribune learned that yesterday morning Liang walked to the middle of Tun Tomas P. Sablan Road corner Alu Drive near Sun Leader in San Antonio where he sat and yelled in Chinese to ask for justice. After 30 minutes, police officers arrived, but he refused to go to the road's side. The officers carried him to the side and he then went back to his house near the area.

Liang is known for his pain relief massage services. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Matson to raise fuel surcharge anew

One of the largest carriers of containerized cargo between the U.S. to Pacific Islands has announced another fuel surcharge hike for shipments to Hawaii, Guam, the CNMI, and Micronesia effective May 1.

In a statement issued to customers Thursday, Matson Navigation Co. said that fuel surcharge on shipments from the mainland to Guam and the CNMI will increase by 8.5 percentage points—from 36.5 percent to 45 percent.

The fuel surcharge for Hawaii services will also reflect an increase of 8.5 percentage points—from 35 percent to 43.5 percent.

"Matson recognizes that fuel costs impact all businesses, as well as consumers. Unfortunately, transportation companies are especially hard hit, with fuel

consumption an unavoidable and significant component of operating costs," said Matson senior vice president Dave Hoppes.

The latest fuel surcharge increase is already the third for Matson this year.

Matson first announced a fuel surcharge increase from 23.25 to 28 percent on Jan. 29, the first increase since Feb. 7, 2010.

Another shipping company, Horizon Lines, mirrored the increase four days later, hiking its fuel adjustment factor for its Micronesia services from 23.25 to 28 percent.

On March 27, Matson announced an 8.5 fuel surcharge hike, increasing its rate from 28 to 36.5 percent effective March 27. Horizon Lines also matched that days later. (*Clarissa V. David*)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

AMENDED NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

of
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
for
PROGRAM YEAR 2011
and
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

This advertisement is paid for by NMHC with CPD Funds.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of \$1,591,011.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving \$880,151.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$647,474 Home Investment Partnership (HOME); and, \$63,386.00 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2011.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Information concerning eligibility uses of the grant funds may be obtained upon request at the respective offices of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located on Garapan, Saipan; San Jose, Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota.

In order to plan ahead as to the use(s) of the PY 2011 allocation, the NMHC will be conducting hearings to obtain public input on community development and housing needs, and to provide information to the public on the status of the approved ongoing CDBG projects. The public hearings will be held as follows:

1. On Rota, April 18, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the NMHC Office, Songsong Village;
2. On Tinian, April 19, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and,
3. On Saipan, April 20, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the public hearing is available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries concerning the CDBG program may be directed in writing to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP. 96950, or by calling Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ **Joshua T. Sasamoto**
Corporate Director

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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

NMC regents to offer contract to next top bet

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College is now finalizing the employment contract details that will be of-

fered to the next top bet for the college presidency after its top choice, Dr. Christa Adams, withdrew her application.

Board chair Juan Lizama said he and his fellow regents hope that the selected candidate will

accept the offer despite what he described as a "not so attractive salary package."

NMC will offer \$80,000 per annum salary, excluding benefits.

Citing confidentiality rules, Lizama refused to disclose who

between Drs. Sharon Hart and Jeff Armstrong has been selected for the college presidency.

The board went into two executive sessions on Friday and is in recess until Thursday. Lizama said the board has arrived at

a consensus to offer the contract to the second top pick.

Lizama said the board had tried to contact both Armstrong and Hart but failed to get a hold of them.

He hopes that details of the contract will be finalized by Thursday for adoption.

In the event the second top pick rejects the board's offer, the board will not make the same offer to the remaining candidate and may possibly amend the resolution pertaining to the hiring of NMC president.

There were a total of 31 applicants for the NMC presidency;

only seven names were endorsed by the Association of Community College Trustees for board consideration and selection.

When asked about the possibility of reviewing or considering the remaining 24 applications for board's reference, Lizama said this "as a possibility" but this will all depend on the board's decision.

NMC has no president since the departure of Dr. Carmen Fernandez who was suspended and later terminated by the board in January 2010. The former chief executive officer filed a lawsuit against the board and the case is pending in court.

Since then, Lorraine T. Cabrera has served as interim president.

2 arrested in ongoing FBI probe on SS cards scam

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has arrested two more persons allegedly involved in a scam of buying U.S. Social Security account cards issued to former garment factory workers on Saipan with the intent to establish identities for illegal immigrants in the U.S. mainland.

Feng Dong and Ya Jing Pei were taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday. Bail was set at \$25,000 each in

unsecured bond.

The case was sealed, but designated judge David Wiseman unsealed the case at the U.S. government's recommendation.

The U.S. government recently filed with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division a complaint charging Dong with conspiring to unlawfully use and transfer five or more Social Security cards.

A complaint was also filed in the same district charging Pei with possession with intent to unlawfully use and transfer five or more such cards.

FBI special agent David A. Patch stated in his affidavit that Dong and Pei, current Saipan residents, were involved in supplying SS cards and identity information to persons in the U.S. mainland, including Minggao Zhang.

Patch said that on June 25, 2009, Zhang and 20 others were indicted in Chicago, Illinois in two separate indictments on various criminal charges related to their respective involvement in the document fraud scheme.

Patch said on July 8, 2010 10 additional manufacturers and brokers were indicted in Chicago, Illinois related to their involvement in the illegal operation. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Three persons, including minor, shatter police car's windshield

Three persons, including a male juvenile, threw rocks at a police car parked at a store in Lower Navy Hill during the wee hours of March 26.

Police learned that the suspects, who had just come from a drinking spree, had wanted to get even with police officers after their two companions were pulled over for drinking alcoholic beverages while under 21 years old.

Isaiah Michael P. Lizama and Eric Miguel K. Tenorio, both 18, were arrested Friday night for criminal mischief. It was not clear yet whether the juvenile suspect was also arrested. Lizama and Tenorio each posted \$1,000 bail shortly after being arrested.

The police car—assigned to police officer Josef Deleon Guerrero—had a shattered front windshield and right front and rear windows.

Traffic investigator Norris Kwon said the preliminary investigation showed that on March 26 between 12:51am

and 1:37am, police officer Steven Dela Cruz had pulled over a Toyota pickup truck and found out that the driver and his passenger were under 21 and had consumed alcoholic beverages. The driver also did not have a valid driver's license and had no vehicle registration.

Deleon Guerrero later arrived in a police vehicle to assist Dela Cruz. Deleon Guerrero parked his car in front of Twins Super Market.

The officers gave the two violators a warning and dropped them off at their homes. The two officers then went back to Twins Market to pick up Deleon Guerrero's patrol car and were surprised to see it already damaged. A witness told the officers that three males in two cars threw rocks at the police car.

After getting the description of the suspects' vehicles, Deleon Guerrero and Dela Cruz proceeded to the homes of the two violators where they obtained information about the three suspects. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Fital signs 3 public, local laws in 1 day

Gov. Benigno R. Fital signed yesterday one public law on homesteads and two local laws on Rota and Tinian appropriations totaling \$91,000.

House Bill 17-108, House Draft 1 is now Public Law 17-37.

It requires the Department of Public Lands to waive the rule that a house must be built within two years of being issued a homestead permit upon showing reasonable justification by the homesteader that a minimum of \$10,000 has been invested on the lot.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), author of HB 17-108, HD1 or the Village Homestead Waiver Act of 2010, was also the author of one of the two local bills that the governor signed.

Fital signed Santos' House Local Bill 17-36, Substitute 1 into Rota Local Law 17-12, allocating \$27,000 in poker license fees for Rota programs and activities.

Of this amount, \$9,450 will

be for seven dialysis and terminally ill patients at \$450 each for three months, while \$5,400 will be for six dialysis and terminally ill patients at \$300 each for three months.

The new Rota local law also gives \$1,500 for certain employees' compensation adjustment under P.L. 7-31.

Another \$1,500 will be given to the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation.

The new local law also allots \$500 for freight charges of shipping tax documents to Saipan, and another \$500 for advertisements with Rota Channel 5.

The remaining \$8,150 will be for the operations of the Rota Municipal Council.

The governor also signed Rep. Trenton Conner's (R-Tinian) HLB 17-42 into Tinian Local Law 17-6. This allocates \$64,000 from poker license fees to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship.

Conner said these funds for Tinian scholars is "long overdue." *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*



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OEA approves extension of MIMC grant

The Office of Economic Adjustment has approved a 12-month extension of the Military Integration Management Committee grant to the CNMI government, according to an Office of the Governor news release yesterday.

The MIMC was established in mid-2009 and has served as the central organization for military communications between the CNMI government and the Department of Defense, Joint Guam Program Office, Marine Forces Pacific, and other federal agencies involved with the military buildup in Guam and the CNMI.

The MIMC Policy Commit-

\$1M grant will help CNMI create health insurance oversight office

The CNMI has been awarded the "Grants to States for Health Insurance Rate Review-Cycle 1" from the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Department of Health & Human Services, according to an Office of the Governor statement issued yesterday.

The grant application was submitted by the CNMI Department of Commerce on behalf of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Oct. 29, 2010.

"This grant opportunity will assist us in opening a Rate Review Office that will expedite the development of a rate review process for all health insurance carriers because the CNMI currently lacks the resources to monitor Market Reform changes from HHS and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners," said press secretary Angel Demapan.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act mandated market reforms for the health insurance industry, an improvement to health care in all 50 States including Washington, D.C. Although U.S. territories were not specifically included under the definition of "states" in Title I of the PPACA, the HHS believes that the territories are actually included as per HHS Secretary Sebelius' July 29, 2010, letter to the Territory governors.

Sebelius advised that "in consultation with other agencies with relevant enforcement jurisdiction in the territories, I have concluded that the insurance market reforms in Title XXVII of the PHSA, such as those involving coverage for adult children up to age 26, rescissions, and a prohibition on lifetime limits, also apply to health insurance issuers in the territories."

Acting Commerce secretary Sixto K. Igisomar, for his part said, "The entire CNMI is appreciative of the grant award and all credit goes to the governor, for his leadership, as well as the technical assistance of the Commerce staff, former secretary of Commerce Michael J. Ada, representatives from HHS,

tee is composed of the governor, lieutenant governor, Senate president, House speaker, and the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

"The MIMC efforts through the leadership of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and technical guidance from the Office of Economic Adjustment under the Department of Defense has been very productive with respect to ensuring the CNMI maximizes military buildup opportunities," said Thomas "Tom" J. Linden, MIMC coordinator.

The MIMC coordinator is primarily responsible for coordinating all military-related projects funded by the Depart-

ment of Defense. The MIMC provides coordination of military expansion related projects and provides and coordinates outreach efforts to the community. The MIMC coordinator also acts as the liaison between the military and local government officials. The benefit this provides is a clear and defined group, through which all military buildup related issues can be addressed.

Past performance of the grant included outreach forums to the islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, as well as a significant amount of funding for a video teleconference system that links government offices on Saipan with the mayors of Tinian and Rota, DoD agencies and the government of Guam. The VTC system will be installed over the next two months and will allow more frequent meetings of the MIMC policy committee members, reduced travel costs for the mayors of Tinian and Rota, and allow Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos a more convenient way to interact with Defense officials as the military buildup continues.

Fitial emphasized the importance of the DOD partnership and the extension of the MIMC grant and welcomes the great news.

"The key to improved partnership is transparency and the MIMC is unique in that it allows key members of the government from each island to be unified and transparent in receiving and disseminating all military matters, and making sure the CNMI people get immediate updates on further developments surrounding the military buildup in our region, including pending issues surrounding the training ranges on Tinian, the Mariana Islands Range Complex, and the joint training EIS."

Current and future defense initiatives in the CNMI include:

1) **Training ranges on Tinian as part of the military buildup in Guam and the CNMI.** The Marine Corps plans to develop live-fire training ranges on Tinian to support the training and operations of Marine Corps units relocating to Guam. Defense currently leases, for military purposes,

about two-thirds of the northern portion of Tinian. Elements of the proposed training consist of the following firing ranges: a rifle KD range, automated combat pistol/military police firearms qualification course range, platoon battle course, and field firing range.

2) **The Mariana Islands Range Complex.** The MIRC consists of three primary components: ocean surface/undersea areas, special use airspace, and training land areas. The ocean surface/undersea areas extend from the waters south of Guam to north of Pagan and from the Pacific Ocean east of the Mariana Islands to the middle of the Philippine Sea to the west. The range complex includes land ranges and training area/facilities on Guam, Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and Farallon de Medinilla. Existing training in the MIRC includes: multi-service training activities on Defense training areas, including either a joint expeditionary warfare exercise or a joint multi-strike group exercise; multi-carrier strike group exercises; special operation training; limited live fire capabilities on known distance ranges; and open ocean air, and sea activities. Expansion of MIRC training includes an overall increase in the number and types of training events and increased training supported by modernization.

3) **The Joint Training EIS.** There are a myriad of challenges that we will have to assess further as we move forward with the upcoming joint training EIS that will consider expanded training opportunities in the CNMI. With numerous islands to cover, it will be extremely important that we provide proper education, outreach, and channels for which members of the community can actively participate in the buildup plans.

Acting Commerce secretary Sixto K. Igisomar stressed: "The administration believes that a well-informed community is vital and the public outreach will provide our islands and region the opportunity to discuss concerns regarding current and future DoD initiatives." (Office of the Governor)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MRCDC sets board meeting on Thursday

Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council will hold an executive board meeting/teleconference on Guam, Saipan, and Tinian on Thursday afternoon, April 7, 2011, from 5pm to 6pm. The public is invited. For island-specific location information or special accommodation for disability call (671) 472-7447. (PR)

OES PTSA meeting set

The PTSA of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of OES students that there will

be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 6pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. (PR)

MLSC on Rota, Tinian this month

Micronesian Legal Services Corp. staff will be on Rota and Tinian this month.

ROTA: Monday, April 11; and Thursday, April 28

TINIAN: Wednesday, April 6; Friday, April 15; and Wednesday, April 27

Anyone wishing to make an appointment in advance may telephone the Marianas Office on Saipan at (670) 234-6243. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 5, 1999

Retirement Fund supports scrapping bonus

Amid slow action by the Legislature on the removal of the 30 percent retirement bonus granted to civil service employees, the NMI Retirement Fund has underlined the need to implement the drastic measure in light of the weak financial condition of the government. Acting Administrator Fred Camacho said the agency would not help the government meet the cash benefits, which has been an initiative from both the executive and legislative branches, despite talks from some lawmakers about asking their assistance. "We support the idea of abolishing the 30 percent bonus, but that is something that they have to deal with because of the resistance of the statute," he told in an interview.

Legislature works on incentive package

To set an ambitious plan in motion, a proposed legislation will provide tax relief and other incentive package for foreign investors on a proposed free trade zone in the Northern Marianas, including up to 100 percent rebate in corporate and personal income. House Speaker Diego T. Benavente filed the administration-sponsored bill seen as an important component to an earlier measure establishing special economic sites on the island as part of the campaign to revive the local economy. Both bills are now under review by the House committees on Commerce and Tourism as well as Ways and Means who have been tasked to look into the proposal prior to any action by the Legislature.

April 5, 2000

High vacancy rate drive apartment rentals down

Minus the rusting car parked in front, few garments hung in a metal clothesline and a couple of seven-year-olds playing on the ground, a row of apartments in San Vicente stands idle without an apparent trace of habitation. This scenario has become prominent since the local economy suffered severe contraction beginning mid-1997, which forced hundreds of foreign businessmen, mostly Koreans, to close down their shops and leave the island in clusters. The departure of too many Korean businessmen from Saipan has left apartment complexes virtually empty with vacancy rate shooting up by as high as 40 percent, according to Commonwealth Development Authority board chair John S. Tenorio.

CUC revamp has Teno backing—Guerrero

The planned revamp in the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has drawn the support of top CNMI officials, including Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, according to its board chairman, Jesus T. Guerrero. But he said the re-organization will take some time as the board needs to scrutinize every problems facing the government-owned utility corporation, including the procurement of a new power plant on Saipan. CUC officials have met with the governor as well as members of the Legislature to discuss the revamp which has been kept under wraps since the ouster of former Board Chairperson Rosario M. Elameto and election of new set of officers in the policy-making body.

April 5, 2001

EPA won't fund shipment of PCB-contaminated soil

The United States Environmental Protection Agency will not extend any financial assistance to the Army Corps of Engineer should shipment of PCB-contaminated soil from Tanapag Village be recommended as an option. US-EPA Superfund Division Deputy Director Michael Feeley said funding for the proposed disposal of the PCB contaminated soil should be sourced out by the Department of Defense, not the environmental agency. He said shipment is the last option being looked at by the agency while other means to resolve the villagers' concerns are being explored by federal regulatory agencies as continued environmental studies are being undertaken. The USCOE is expected to submit its recommendations by the end of April, before the scheduled completion of the excavation activities on May 1, 2001.

Verizon faults anti-business provisions of telecom law

Verizon Pacifica sales and marketing manager Kerry Deets lambasted what she claims were business-restrictive provisions of the newly-signed CNMI Telecommunications Act of 2001. This, even as Ms. Deets openly declared that Verizon Pacifica will strictly abide by the requirements and standards called for under the new measure. "The implications of this new law is very serious. Verizon's official position is that "we abide by the laws in the communities we serve.

Kite festival moved to April 10

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brilliant Star Montessori School, which organizes the Marianas Winds Kite Festival and Cultural Food Fair with the Marianas Visitors Authority, announced yesterday that the event has been moved to April 10.

The original schedule of April 3 was cancelled due to Saturday's inclement weather.

Richard Sikkell, principal for Brilliant Star, said they should have everything up and running this Sunday since they already had everything in place last Sunday.

"Judging by the number of enthusiasts that came out and the fun everyone had last Sunday during the impromptu kite flying, I think we can count on even more participants this Sunday," Sikkell told *Saipan Tribune*, referring to the large crowd that went ahead and flew their kites despite the cancellation.

According to Sikkell, this year's event—the fourth for the school—will feature various booths, including face painting, games, food, and kite contests.

The event will be highlighted by the kite contests: highest flying kite, smallest kite, biggest kite, and most eye-catching site.

Sikkell said the competition is going to be fierce, as they already had a glimpse of the different potential kite entries that were flown during the impromptu kite flying.

Participants may use either homemade kites or commercial kites sold by Brilliant Star for \$8 to \$15 per kite.

Sikkell added that even the highest flying kite category will be a tough one. "I saw kites so high we might get in trouble with the FAA," he quipped.

Sikkell, however, noted that they were not able to invite international kite flyers for this year since they did not have enough time to send out invitations.

The last time they hosted international kite flyers was in 2008 when three members of the Korea Kitefliers Association did kite demonstration using a giant kite.

"I want to set a date for next year and to start planning the kite festival early and bring in again kite professionals," said Sikkell.

Angel Hocog is back with Arts Council

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After the non-renewal of his contract that expired on Dec. 31, 2010, Angel S. Hocog has been reinstated as the executive director of the Commonwealth Council for the Arts.

Hocog and press secretary Angel Demapan separately confirmed yesterday the former's return to the post.

"We are confident that Mr. Hocog will continue to serve the goals and objectives of the Arts Council well as he resumes a post he has previously held," Demapan said via email.

Hocog officially started work yesterday and replaced Department of Community and Cultural Affairs deputy secretary Rhonda Nogis, who has been acting as the council's executive director since January 2011.

In an interview yesterday, Hocog said he "officially got word" from the Governor's Office about two weeks ago that he will have his position back.

"I'm still in a mixed-emotions mood right now," Hocog told *Saipan Tribune*. "I'm just happy that I'm back with the council and we can continue what we have set in our goals to accomplish."

Hocog declined to discuss the

initial non-renewal of his contract. "I don't want to talk about it anymore. I'll put it behind me and look forward," he said.

Now that he's back, Hocog said his focus is to get the council the funding it needs to get its activities going.

"Funding has always been a battle for us. At least my absence from the council gave me more ideas on how to tackle the issue. It gave me time to think about a new approach," he said.

According to Hocog, he will also deal with the suspension of federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts following the audit report issued

by its Office of Inspector General on Aug. 17, 2010.

The damning report, which reviewed the four grants received by the council from NEA from 2005 to 2009, issued audit findings that prompted NEA in October 2009 to terminate all funding and suspend any awards to the Arts Council until it has implemented corrective measures and improved its management of federal funds.

"I'll work on this matter. Hopefully, we can get something materialized, especially since we haven't heard anything regarding our suspension for the grant," said Hocog.



JAILBIRD

The Legislature's sergeant-at-arms, Peter Togawa, joins Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos in the makeshift jail at the Garapan Fishing Base during the NMI Japan Disaster Relief "Join Us Help Japan" fundraiser on Saturday. Despite overcast skies and heavy downpour, community members expressed their support for the event that featured radiothon, a walkathon, and other fundraising activities to help relief efforts for the thousands of families affected by the earthquake and tsunami that struck and devastated northeastern Japan on March 11.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-11-027

REHABILITATION OF SEWER LIFT STATION NOS. S-2 & S-8

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of Sewer Lift Stations and installation of Force-Main in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the rehabilitation and upgrade of Two (2) Sewer Lift Stations and the installation approximately 1,300 foot of force-main. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work is inclusive of rehabilitation of the wet well, replacement of pumps, guide rails, control panel cleanup of the basins, repair, replacement, rehabilitation of pipeline, pipes, replacement of generator, asphalt paving, etc. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of \$ 100.00 (nonrefundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **March 28, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-027, Rehabilitation of Sewer Lift Station Nos. S-2 & S-8" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 14, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of **one hundred (100%) percent** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of **one hundred (100%) percent** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00200 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 7, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Commander, Robert Lorenz, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone)

For MEC LLC

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on this proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Mr. Christopher A. Torres requests to rezone lot #380-BNew-7-1-R1 and surrounding property, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial". Mr. Torres wishes to eventually construct a warehouse and wholesale operation at the intersection of Bakke Street and Tokcha Avenue. This is two blocks east of Beach Road in the village of Susupe.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office conference room, 2nd flr. Joeten Dandan

The proposed map change may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan or on Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page). After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve the change to the Official Zoning Map.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, April 6, 2011. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Mr. Douglas Wyatt at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone)

For Quad L's Company

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on this proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Mr. Jose R. Lifofoi requests to rezone lot #023-D89 and surrounding property, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial". Mr. Lifofoi wishes to construct an apartment building at the intersection of Saluda Street and Publiko Drive. This is just east of Chalan Pale Arnold Road in lower Navy Hill.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board conference room, 2nd flr. Joeten Dandan

The proposed map change may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan or on Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page). After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve the change to the Official Zoning Map.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and
BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

Jumping hurdles

» Marriage requirements, the Visa Bulletin and new minimum income guidelines

We often think of the process of visa application as an obstacle course. The applicants must jump over many hurdles: legal, financial, emotional to arrive at their destination. Some of these hurdles are created by legitimate policy concerns, such as screening applicants to make sure they do not become a burden on American society. Others are born of pragmatism, such as the Visa Bulletin, which tracks how fast specific types of visas are processed through the system; because the number of applications vastly exceeds the number of visas available, the Visa Bulletin is a very useful tool in planning immigration strategy. Then there are hurdles that are created by overly eager bureaucrats, that serve no purpose other than to inflate the ego of the bureaucrat and make the applicants miserable. Today we will discuss the CNMI's marriage requirements that, as administered, are all too often an example of this last kind of hurdle. We will also discuss the Visa Bulletin and the Poverty Guidelines, both of which have been revised very recently.

CNMI marriage requirements

Over the years, many clients have come to us with tales of woe regarding difficulties in obtaining a marriage license in the CNMI, most often when the marriage was to be between a U.S. citizen and a foreigner. Why should this be so?

Although marriage historically has been regulated by the states, the right to marry is recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court as a "fundamental right." "The freedom to marry has been recognized as one of the 'basic civil rights of men,' fundamental to our very existence and survival." *Loving v. Virginia*, 388 U.S. 1 (1967.) The regulation of marriage by state law is limited by the constitutional requirement of equal protection and due process. On this basis, over the past 60 years the Supreme Court has overturned state laws prohibiting interracial marriage, forced sterilization, contraception and abortion.

The law concerning marriage in the CNMI is set forth at 8 CMC §1201 through §1205 of the Commonwealth Code, a mere two pages of printed material. Like many of the laws of the Commonwealth, the marriage law is derived from the laws of the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Unlike other Commonwealth laws, however, the marriage law remained unchanged. It is a very simple law, with simple requirements, but which have been much expanded in actual practice. Over the last several decades, the CNMI Legislature has made several genuine efforts to revise the marriage law to better reflect contemporary conditions: on each occasion the bill failed to pass both houses because the members could not agree on a defini-

tion of common law marriage. ("Common law marriage" is a misnomer; it does not exist under common law, it needs to be defined by state law. Only 11 states have statutorily authorized common law marriage; the CNMI is not one of them.)

The statutory requirements for obtaining a marriage license are found at 8 CMC § 1202 (b):

To obtain a license to marry, the parties shall file with the Governor or a mayor an application in writing setting forth as to each party: his or her full name, age, citizenship, residence, occupation, if any, whether previously married and the manner of dissolution of any prior marriage or marriages. If the statements in the application are satisfactory and it appears that the parties are free to marry, the Governor or a mayor shall issue to the parties a license to marry.

That's pretty simple. There is in fact a one-page "Marriage Application" that reflects the statutory requirements. In practice, however, especially when the marriage is between a U.S. citizen and a foreigner, the list of requirements expands. No law or regulation authorizes these additional requirements. Nonetheless, a written form of these additional requirements is routinely handed to every marriage license applicant titled "Application requirements for Marriage License:"

1. Current passport
2. Original birth certificate or certified true copy
3. Death certificate/divorce decree /or annulment certificate
4. Additional requirements for nonresidents:
 - Valid work and entry permits;
 - Copy of labor case if in pending case status;
 - Clearance of marital status from CNMI government;
 - Signed acknowledgment re: immigration fraud;
 - Affidavit of marital status signed under penalty of perjury.

The applicants are verbally instructed that the application is to be signed in blue ink. Please note that the statute does not require any supporting documentation, much less original or certified documents. It does not require that the application be signed in any particular color ink. It simply asks the parties to file an application containing the specified information, just as if they were applying for a driver's license.

There are two general kinds of permits, licenses, or benefits that are issued by governments: discretionary and ministerial. For example, the grant of an immigration benefit, such as a green card, is always discretionary. That means that even though the applicant has the appropriate qualifications and files all the proper documents, she can still be denied because the grant of the benefit is subject to the individual judgment, i.e. discretion, of the government official. In contrast, the issuance of a driver's license is ministerial. That means that if you are eligible for a license and you follow the prescribed procedures, you must be issued a license. No discretion is involved. The issuance of a marriage license is a ministerial act. It cannot be denied on the basis of regulations that are not based in law, and

regulations cannot be made up on the spot. A marriage license cannot be denied based on the discretion of the issuing official, based on some personal or political agenda. Yet for too long, and too often, this has been the case.

The special requirements for aliens are particularly odious. The constitutional requirement of equal protection for all—found in both the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions—prohibits different requirements for citizens and non-citizens. The marriage license office was never, and is not now, an arm of the immigration authority of either the CNMI or the U.S. Valid immigration status is not a legitimate concern in the marriage license application. We have had a number of clients over the years who were turned away from the marriage license offices because they had expired immigration status. An alien on U.S. soil, regardless of status, has as much of a constitutional right to marry as anyone else; that is true whether the alien is intending to marry another alien or a citizen. U.S. law, in fact, recognizes the right of people in removal (deportation) proceedings to marry during those proceedings, and authorizes the immigration judge to consider whether the marriage provides a basis to avoid removal.

Clearance of marital status is especially vexatious. It requires not only proof of prior divorces or annulments but also proof of non-marriage. It is always difficult to prove a negative; therefore this is a ripe opportunity for fraud. For example, in both China and the Philippines, there are national and local registries for marriage; they overlap but are not necessarily the same. So if you married in Shanghai, but choose not to disclose it, you simply get a clearance from Beijing. If you married in a province of the Philippines, and the marriage was registered only in the town nearest your village, you simply get a clearance from the national registry. A requirement so easily evaded really serves no purpose. Better to simply ask for marital status. If the answer turns out to be false later, usually in a different context, there are consequences: the marriage may be declared void; the bigamous spouse may be prosecuted for bigamy; the bigamous spouse may be denied or stripped of U.S. immigration benefits.

We certainly do not advocate fraud. But we also do not support unlawful bureaucratic harassment, under color of law, of non-citizen marriage applicants. We have been quite successful over the years in assisting marriage applicants, but people should not require a lawyer's help just to get married.

Visa Bulletin

We have not mentioned the Visa Bulletin for a couple of months, because it has been pretty static. The Bulletin gives the "priority dates" for various family- and employment-based visas; if your visa was filed before the listed priority date, a visa should (finally) be available for you. After a stunning improvement over the course of 2010, particularly for immediate relatives of U.S. permanent residents, the priority dates slid backward again, and most of the

See JUMPING on Next Page



EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Qingming

China observes *Qingming* (tomb scrubbing) today but it took Sunday and Monday along with it since gathering around the ancestral tomb often require urban folks to travel to the countryside. On the weekend, people drove, caught trains, buses, and planes to join loved ones in sprucing up the old familial tombstone. Not as elaborate as it used to be before the CPP banned it in China after 1949, the fest continued in Macao and Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, Indochina and all the Chinatowns scattered around the world, with celebration and veneration of ancestry.

Lifted in 2008, the holiday that promotes filial loyalty and piety is on again. Its return comes with a steep price. Last year, a man memorialized his mother's funeral at a cost of 3 million Yuan (close to half a million US dollars). And that was just the day of the funeral.

Elaborate observances of ancestral respect and honoring have married into some local customs so that All Souls Day, a medieval practice from Europe that gave us the Hallowed Evening, is *Qingming* at the Chinese cemetery in Manila. Food, beverages, incense, and the roll of the dice, or the finger click on mahjong tiles accompanied the levity that characterizes the day.

The mountain folks of northern Luzon in the Philippines preserved their dead in big jars, or sat them upright in cold caves in the mountains embalmed with saline solution to mitigate against rapid biological deterioration. Some are still found in Sagada near the Banaue rice terraces in Ifugao.

Embalming Egyptian pharaohs in whose honor the pyramids along the Nile were built for gave us the gauze-wrapped Halloween mummies we now mimic to scare the bejeesus out of kids. It fitted the dry air of the desert tombs and pyramids. The Aztecs and the Incas were known to keep their mummies in the cold, too, and Qin Shi Huangdi, the emperor that unified the warring states to become China, got himself a whole retinue of terra cotta infantry buried with him in Xi'an.

The promotion of a child's veneration of his ancestry is not, however, a strengthening of genetic ties, or to secure the continuance of a bloodline. In fact, families had been known during China's "one-child policy" of recent years to trade a daughter for a son because lineage by name is on the son's progeny. It is the continuance of the name that is being preserved. Today, it need not be patriarchal. Adopted children had been known to flourish with this kind of understanding. The House of Chen must go on.

Our western kneejerk anti-pagan response to something like *Qingming* is to domesticate it with a name like "ancestor worship" so that we can condemn its primitive-sounding origin and brush off any claim on our loyalty since it does not conform to the theological formulation we grew up with. Or, take the Mardi Gras and give it commercial pizzazz like they did in New Orleans, or marry it to the distinctive ethnicity of location, as Rio de Janeiro has done with the Carnival and its dynamic Afro-Iberian force in

JUMPING

From Page 10

ground gained in 2010 was lost in a couple of months. The April Visa Bulletin is out now, however, and shows some improvement in the family categories. If you are waiting for a visa to come through, or if you are considering sponsoring someone who will be in one of the categories listed in the Visa Bulletin, you should check it out online at <http://tinyurl.com/6jterbz>.

Minimum Income Requirements for 2011

Every year USCIS publishes its poverty guidelines, which set the minimum income levels for green card applicants. If you make less than the listed amount, you must either (a) show sufficient assets to make up the difference between your family income and the required minimum; (b) find a joint sponsor whose own family income level qualifies; or (c) be in an exempt class, such as a widow(er), a Violence Against Women Act applicant, or someone with at least 40 quarters in which he or she paid Social Security taxes. Some years, the Guidelines go up quite a bit, but the Guidelines in 2010 were identical to those set in 2009. The 2011 Poverty Guidelines came out on March 1, and we were relieved to see that although they increased, the increase was slight, especially in comparison to some previous years. Check out the Poverty Guidelines at <http://tinyurl.com/4r4jbd2>.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lex-marianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

its songs, dances and pageantries.

My childhood Chinese neighbors used to put up mahjong tables at the cemetery and do an all-nighter of *pong*, *kang* and *qiao*; make merry for the ancestors to hear loud and clear so that they may lead us to good luck and good fortune when we bid them goodbye at sunrise the following day.

Devoid of the elaborate theism of the Aegean and Mesopotamia where every force of nature was personalized and assigned a niche on Mt. Olympus, and the cyclical rising and setting *Ra* the sun-deity into the Netherlands only to be resurrected again the next day, China's *Qingming* was simply that: recalling where one came from, where one was heading, and the hope that one does not lose the way (tao) in the process.

When Moses monotheized the pantheon at Sinai, and Mohammed in Mecca, the imagination went berserk with angels and archangels, and their subterranean counterparts and a strict dichotomy emerged where one had to choose one side: the spirit or the flesh. A conceptual tool, unfortunately, got embedded in its contemporaneous metaphor, and like a lot of our metaphors that no longer carry the punch they once did, the symbol has come to replace the real. A symbol is defaced and reality takes a spin. Florida pastor meets Afghan imam, and there hangs an ancient tale in modern duds.

That one's name needs to be honored and revered is a historical choice. Naming itself is a choice. Naming is putting an identifiable

Letters to the Editor

Will they listen to MVA?

Now that the Marianas Visitors Authority, the official tourism office in the CNMI, has spoken out—most uncharacteristically!—and publicly stated in a letter released to the media that it is opposed to the use of power poles in the Marpi/Banzai Cliff area, will its position be accepted and acted upon?

Surely, if anyone's concern should be heeded, it is that of the MVA, which is responsible for tourism, the mainstay of the CNMI's economy.

The letter was sent to the governor in November 2010.

Or will the governor maintain the untenable position that the poles are "temporary" (we all know there's no such word on these islands) and that change must await newer technology that, ac-

All for autism

April is designated Autism Awareness month in the CNMI with the theme "All for Autism." Because autism is rapidly increasing and now impacts one in less than every 100 people, all probably know someone with it, all need to recognize and understand it, and all should support all those that have it and programs needed to support it.

Autism is a neurological and development disorder that affects each person differently and at different levels of severity. It varies widely in complexities, symptoms, and how it disrupts the senses, learning, and social skills. This is the reason it is referred to as autism spectrum.

People on the spectrum experience the world differently than others, and their development is likely to be uneven, with some skills stronger than others and even those without autism. Many on the spectrum have remarkable memories and other positive qualities and talents and become very successful in their chosen fields, as did Bill Gates, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Thomas Jefferson, Mark Twain and others with autism.

What causes autism is still uncertain, but it's linked to genes, vaccines, environment, and diet. The increase in autism cases is in direct proportion to the increase in vaccinations and many non-autistic kids developed autism symptoms immediately af-

Nitty-gritty

It's obvious that our lawmakers need to do more with less money to survive. This is the nitty-gritty time when all minds should put in their five senses and come up with more revenues. As for the casino suggestions, that is a big problem for our local people who are out of control with their gambling addictions. What we actually need is for our lawmakers is to appropriate more funds to hire more counselors to get rid of the gambling diseases on Saipan.

Ever wonder why we are in this mess in the first place? Because our lawmakers gambled away our tax money since the early decades. As a matter of fact, those economic boom decades we had was for our lawmakers to improve, upgrade, innovate, and advance our infrastructures to meet consumer demands in a changing world. But what did our lawmakers do? They all went on spending sprees,

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

tag on a part of reality. It is a conscious effort. There is the name given us at birth and we can either live with it, or throw it away, and coin one's own, but in any case, inject our own meaning into it. Our court is saddled with adoptions and name changes so that inheritance might smoothly flow from one generation to another. The name abides. Thus, one's gratitude to ancestors can never be enough.

My first audience at Shenyang Aerospace University in November asked how I wanted to be called. I replied that the office tagged me as "Hemi" because my name is pronounced that way. "Oh, good," one said, "then, since you're an English teacher and you write, we will call you Mr. He Ming Wei."

Didn't think Ernest had me in his line of vision but what the heck. It's my name. Now, if only I can locate my copy of *the Old Man and the Sea*.

cording to him, has not yet proved itself, all evidence to the contrary notwithstanding?

As others have observed, it does not matter what the federal plans called for. Plans can be changed. What does matter is to stop the placement of the poles; the more that get put in, the more it's going to cost to take them back out.

Getting such power as may be needed to the public cemetery is not an emergency. What's more important is that tourism's interests be protected and preserved. Our economy depends on it.

Ruth L. Tighe

Tanapag, Saipan

ter receiving vaccinations. Diets that eliminate gluten (wheat) and dairy help stop symptoms, and therefore are also considered a cause.

It is important to be aware of autism symptoms and how to act toward people on the autism spectrum. The earlier symptoms are recognized and addressed the more likely they can be corrected. Some symptoms include tendencies to not recognize others or socialize, to stick to routines and avoid change, to have a narrow range of interests and often be fixated on a particular activity or object, to develop irrational fears or anxieties, and to demonstrate bizarre behaviors and mannerisms. Many on the spectrum are extra sensitive to hearing, smelling, vision, and touch, and that is why they may hold their ears or leave loud or strong smelling situations and do not like to be touched.

What's needed this month and continuing long beyond is "All for Autism" through all being aware of it and accepting those with it through thinking of AUTISM as an acronym for Ask questions, Understand, Tell others, Include, Show support, and Make a difference. In doing so you'll benefit them, yourself, and all.

Paul Plunkett

Dandan, Saipan

as if the taxpayers' money belonged to them and them only. And now we cry after we neglected our main money machine, Japan?

On top of all these, we have these alien workers who are owed millions in unpaid wages and labor damages. We can blame SARS, 9-11, the tsunami, or the federal government but it doesn't matter because our lawmakers are the ones who were the captain of our ship, not outsiders but our lawmakers. As reality sets us on a different course we have to be realistic too and make necessary changes in our local government to recover from this mess our lawmakers created.






Jack O. Romolor

Portland, Oregon

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲ 90 ▼ 77
Majuro	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77

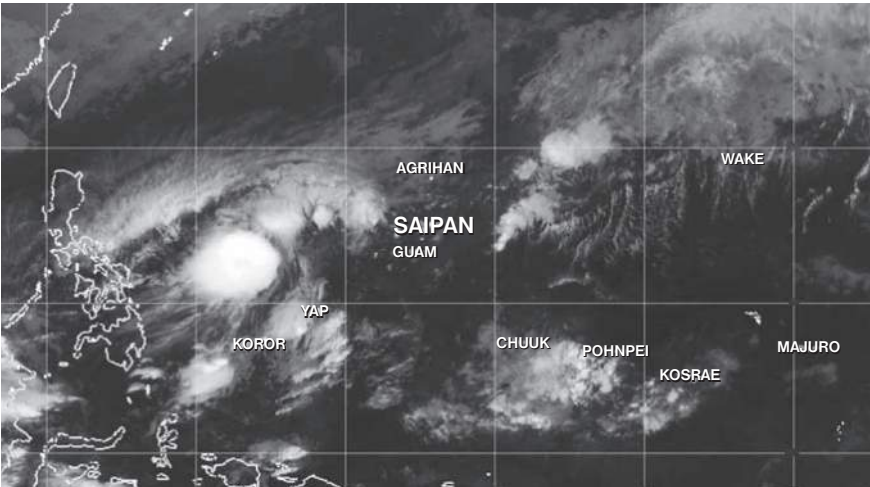
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 58
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 45
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 70
London	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 49
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 54
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 65
New York	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 37
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 42
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 44
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 47
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 50
Salem	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 42
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 37
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 44
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 39

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet	
8:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
3:02 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
9:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A circulation that is currently the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert is centered northwest of Koror at 10N133E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms associated with the circulation are occurring west of a line from 3N133E to 10N133E to 12N136E to 15N136E. Scattered showers are also found near Koror and Yap within an area bounded by a line from 4N134E to 3N142E to 10N143E to 13N137E back to 4N134E. For more information on this system, see tropical cyclone alerts issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN21 PGTW. A monsoon trough and shear line are interacting between the circulation northwest of Koror and another circulation centered northeast of Pagan near 19N148E. Cloudiness and widely scattered showers are found along and up to 350 miles northwest of this feature. Converging south winds east of the CNMI are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 15N and 19N from 149E to 155E. The previously mentioned shear line continues eastward from the circulation at 19N148E to beyond 180 at 21N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and north of this boundary beyond 25N. A surface trough runs northward from 2N151E to 9N153E. Scattered showers are present over Chuuk but southwest of Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line from 3N151E to 5N159E to 10N160E back to 3N151E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:49 AM	7:48 PM
Wednesday	7:30 AM	8:38 PM
Thursday	8:15 AM	9:30 PM
Friday	9:03 AM	10:23 PM
Saturday	9:54 AM	11:16 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:10am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 DL288 8:00pm 12:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN CA987 6:40pm 1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL285/173 6:40am 10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT C09313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM C09313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN OZ604/715 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ716/603 12:30am 2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN DL172/286 8:05am 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C0890/9606 10:55am 8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:25am+1 6 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 4 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

EOU's Rellani Ogumoro named a 2011 Truman Scholar

LA GRANDE, Ore.—With friends at the Eastern Oregon University gearing up for a hiatus from their studies, Rellani Ogumoro chose to spend her winter holiday poring over a scholarship application.

It was unlike any she had tackled before; the questions about her government and community service activities and future career goals accumulated 16 pages of detailed responses.

Then in mid-March came an extensive phone interview, followed by more anticipation.

Last week, Ogumoro finally learned that she has been selected as a Truman Scholar—the first EOU student to earn the distinction.

Ogumoro, a senior at EOU this year, is one of 60 college students who will receive awards from the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. She will receive up to \$30,000 in funding toward a graduate degree in a public service field.

A total of 602 candidates nominated by 264 colleges and universities across the United States applied for the scholarship this year. Ogumoro was elected on the basis of her leadership potential, intellectual ability, and likelihood of “making a difference” by 17 independent selection panels.

EOU president Bob Davies was the bearer of the good news and made a surprise visit to Ogumoro’s English class on Monday.

“This is an incredible achievement for Rellani and for EOU,” Davies said. “A Truman Scholar

exemplifies our commitment to academic excellence and points to the outstanding education our university provides.”

Ogumoro said she was stunned when Davies made the announcement.

“I am honored to be a part of President Truman’s living legacy. I am still in disbelief and can’t even begin to explain any of these feelings,” she said. “After learning that larger schools have classes and committees specifically for aiding students with the whole Truman process, I was worried that I would not be a strong competitor. Now, I understand that my whole experience at EOU prepared me for this instead.”

Mary Koza, liberal studies director at EOU, joined Davies for the announcement. She worked closely with Ogumoro throughout the application process, acting as the liaison between EOU and the Truman Foundation. She also compiled the formal institutional letter of recommendation nominating her for the award.

“What a joy it has been partnering with Rellani in helping her to achieve this academic milestone,” Koza said. “There is nothing better than getting to meet and work with incredible students. She is certainly a star and a wonderful representative for EOU.”

Ogumoro’s scholarship application did shine with many attributes sought out by the Truman Foundation. Her advocacy for victims of human trafficking particularly stood out.

Last summer Ogumoro spent six weeks in Washington, D.C. for a Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN) internship focusing on women and public policy issues. In addition to spending time on Capitol Hill, she completed an internship at Courtney’s House, a non-profit



EOU/ANDREW MURRAY
Eastern Oregon University senior Rellani Ogumoro.

organization that provides safe transitional housing and support services to victims of child sex trafficking.

Ogumoro assisted with daily operations including handling confidential files and documenting information necessary to make arrests on traffickers, to providing meals and clothing for clients. Working directly with the children—boys and girls ranging in age from 12 to 18—was an eye-opening experience.

“I saw a gap between policies and the social services being provided. There’s so much to be done,” she said. “Initially I thought I needed an advanced degree to make a difference, but after working in emotionally tense settings I realized I didn’t need a degree to be a friend.”

It is difficult for Ogumoro to relive the atrocities endured by the young people seeking refuge at Courtney’s House.

“Many are homeless and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder,” she said. “Some feel forced to join gangs for safety because they are constantly in danger, especially when trying to leave their pimp. Unfortunately the general public perception, including the justice system, is that victims are choosing this

lifestyle, and it couldn’t be further from the truth.”

Ogumoro said her time in D.C. solidified her desire to pursue a career in public policy and human rights.

“The resilience of the human spirit is amazing. I arrived at Courtney’s House thinking I would help give these kids a voice, but instead they helped me find my own. They already have a voice and I was there to help them use it,” she said.

Ogumoro is following in the footsteps of her mother, Lauri Bennett Ogumoro, who shares a passion for helping others. Lauri works at a women’s shelter in Saipan called Guma Esperansa, which translates to House of Hope.

Lauri is originally from La Grande and graduated from EOU in 1982. Ogumoro’s father, Jack Ogumoro, is also an EOU alumnus from the same year.

Growing up in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Ogumoro remembers meeting a woman her mother first introduced as a “friend.” She later learned the woman was the first documented victim of human trafficking assisted by Guma Esperansa and her mother had played an instrumental role in her rehabilitation.

With a major in sociology and a minor in gender studies, Ogumoro believes her education from EOU is developing a broad understanding of different perspectives and she is learning to view the world through a “gender lens.”

“I’m very thankful to the university faculty and staff, the EOU Foundation and the President’s Commission on the Status of Women at EOU,” she said. “I don’t know how to ever repay them because saying

‘thank you’ just isn’t enough.”

Among the individuals providing guidance and support for Ogumoro are Tonia St. Germain, assistant professor of gender studies, and Rosemary Powers, associate professor of sociology.

“All the credit for this award goes to Rellani, EOU’s first Truman Scholar,” St. Germain said. “I also believe that this honor provides an important occasion to acknowledge how central faculty mentoring activities are to students’ pursuits of opportunities to compete for celebrated awards.”

As her mentor, St. Germain has assisted Ogumoro with completing several other successful applications for national and international awards. These include a practicum program sponsored by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom for which Ogumoro attended the United Nations in New York and the PLEN summer internship in D.C.

“I was delighted when Rellani identified the Truman Scholarship as her next application and felt that her excellent performance in the previous programs helped give her the confidence to reach for this prestigious award,” St. Germain said.

Powers is Ogumoro’s academic adviser and has witnessed her student’s continuing commitment to “sociological mindfulness” in all that she does.

“Rellani’s significant intellectual gifts and the thoughtfulness of her proposals for addressing the contemporary epidemic of human trafficking clearly set her apart from others seeking this highly competitive national scholarship,” Powers said. “I have been privileged to work with her as she navigates multiple cultures and ideologies

and asserts her perspective as a strong feminist woman whose voice will be heard.”

As she begins the final stretch of her senior year, Ogumoro reflects on her experience at EOU.

“I am grateful for Eastern’s investment in strong academic programs like gender studies and its commitment to the whole student experience, with programs for involvement and support for students participating in national competitions as I’ve done.”

“This entire process helped me understand myself and focus on what my life’s work will be,” she said. “I have a clearer path to work towards and now I have the means to do so.”

Ogumoro and her fellow 2011 Truman Scholars will assemble May 17 for a leadership development program at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. She will receive her award in a special ceremony at the Truman Library in Independence, Mo., on May 22.

Congress established the Truman Scholarship Foundation in 1975 as the federal memorial to our 33rd President. There have been 2,790 Truman Scholars elected since the first awards were made in 1977. For a complete listing of the 2011 scholars and more information on the foundation visit www.truman.gov.

Eastern Oregon University serves students and communities throughout Oregon with a special focus on rural, regional and distance learning. Programs are delivered on campus, online and onsite in La Grande and at 16 regional centers and include liberal arts, business, education and cooperative programs in agriculture, nursing and dental hygiene. For more information, check out www.eou.edu. (EOU)

Dog tag registration sites

The Mayor of Saipan is reminding the public and dog owners that its Dog Control Program Office will launch its initial dog tag licensing on June 6 through June 16 at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, from 9am to 4pm.

Dog owners who are residing in other villages are welcome to register at the designated site or they may wait to register at their respective villages.

The other village sites will be announced at a later date.

In order to avail of the “altered price,” owner(s) must be able to provide proof of document(s). The following documents are required are; Dog owners ID, name of the dog, gender, color, age, mailing address, physical address (street name), contact number, and vaccination documents.

Should you have any question(s), contact MOS-Dog Control Program Office at 234-6208 ext. 105 or email us at dogcontrolprogram.mos2011@yahoo.com. (PR)



TOOTHWORKS DONATION

Toothworks staff and Open Choice Dental Plan owner and manager Dr. Alan Markoff, center, presents Northern Marianas College Foundation president Ben Babauta with the two checks in support of the Foundation’s efforts to raise funds for NMC’s educational programs and student services.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Health returns to MMAC with sponsorship

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Health Services is up for a big comeback in the 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer after missing last year's event.

Last Friday, MHS staff and management led by president and CEO George J. Cruz presented a check worth \$2,200 to MMAC overall committee chair Dave B. Guerrero at the MHS office along Middle Road.

In an interview, Cruz said the amount will cover its team participation fee as well as their sponsorship for the event.

"Being in the health care industry, we're really excited to be back," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Cruz, their comeback with MMAC is especially significant for them as some of their staff and board members have been diagnosed with cancer.

"We have more commitment now than ever. We dedicate ourselves to making sure that we participate in this great cause. We want to let the MMAC committee know that we're committed to this," he added.

Cruz said MHS has partnered with Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School to create a team for this year's MMAC.

He disclosed that they are conducting a contest for the best

banner design and best chant among the students.

"We want them to get involved so we came up with this challenge for them. We'll give monetary prize to the winners," added Cruz.

With the participation of MHS, overall committee chair Dave B. Guerrero noted that they now have 10 teams that will be joining the largest fundraising activity in the CNMI to benefit the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

"It's great to see them come back. We're happy to have them this year. It's awesome that Marianas Health Services and GTC came together for a worthy cause," he said.

As the event draws near, Guerrero encouraged other companies and organizations to form teams and join the event to raise funds to fight the battle against cancer through patient/survivor assistance, outreach and advocacy, and prevention support programs.

"For those that are still hesitant, it really doesn't take much to contribute. You can do it on a corporate or personal level. We're trying to raise money but in the end, it's all about coming together and helping each other as a community," he said.

Title sponsors for this year are Take Care/FHP, Saipan Health Clinic & St. Jude Renal Care,



Marianas Health Services staff and management led by president and CEO George J. Cruz present a check worth \$2,200 to MMAC overall committee chair Dave B. Guerrero on Friday at the MHS office along Middle Road.

Delta Air Lines, Bank of Guam, and Tan Holdings Foundation. Major sponsors include Marianas Health Services, Saipan Images, Hyatt Regency, Younis Art Studio, IP&E, and MMAC Golf Tournament Volunteers.

The 2011 MMAC will be held on May 13-14 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

For information, call Guerrero at 989-2496 or by email at dave.b.guerrero@gmail.com.

Saipan chamber meeting on Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its April general membership meeting on April 6, 2011, at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio, Saipan. Lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at 12pm. Lunch is \$15 for SCC members and \$20 for non-members. The meeting will focus on the recent earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan.

Nick K. Nishikawa, Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager, chairman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and president of the Japan Association, recently returned from Japan and will speak on Japan's recent natural disaster, its effects on Japan's community, the possible effects on Saipan's tourism industry and economic fallout and how it has affected Hyatt's plans for the travel industry.

Yoichi Matsumura, president of Pacific Development Inc. and chairman of the Solicitation Committee for JOIN US HELP JAPAN, a non-profit formed between the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Japan Saipan Travel Association, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government, will speak to ongoing disaster re-

lief efforts in the CNMI.

John Hirsch, executive director for the Saipan Chapter of the American Red Cross, will present ongoing efforts and perspective by the American Red Cross in Japan, and how residents and businesses can participate in the Red Cross disaster relief fund.

"SCC sincerely hopes its membership supports efforts to assist victims and their families of this tragic natural disaster by attending the April SCC general membership meeting at PIC," said Chamber executive director Richard Pierce in an email message to members. (SCC)

Frank Cable, Guam wildlife refuge to launch new trail

POLARIS POINT, Guam—The captain and crew of USS *Frank Cable* and the Guam National Wildlife Refuge are inviting the community to the ribbon cutting ceremony on a nature trail at the wildlife refuge on April 8, at 1pm.

After a seven-month effort, the *Cable* crew worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to clear a mile-long nature trail that will allow locals and tourists to see a part of the island that was previously inaccessible.

The Guam National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1993 and spans 1,203 acres. Its purpose is to protect endangered species and their habitats while allowing their populations to recover as well as provide recreational and educational opportunities.

During the ceremony, Capt.

Thomas Stanley, commanding officer of USS *Frank Cable*, will dedicate the "USS *Frank Cable* Trail," and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will recognize the efforts of the 148 volunteers and their families. Following the ceremony, the trail will be

ON THE NET

- **Frank Cable website:** www.cable.navy.mil
- **Guam National Wildlife Refuge:** www.fws.gov/guam/

open to all visitors to see the 4,000-year-old latte site and the naturally occurring caves once housed by ancient Chamorro people.

Frank Cable conducts maintenance and support of submarines and surface vessels deployed in U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility. (USN)

UOG offers new online courses in summer 2011

The University of Guam has added several courses to its online offerings for summer 2011.

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences continues to lead the way in launching online sections of its traditional face-to-face courses in order to provide students with an online learning option. New courses include:

- AN-101 Intro to Anthropology taught by Stephen Acabado during Summer Session B, which runs June 13 – July 29.
- WG-101 Intro to Women & Gender Studies and WG-201

Gender and Society taught by Helen Thompson during both Summer Session A (May 31 – July 1) and Summer Session C (July 5 – August 6).

Other online courses offered during the summer are:

- EN100 Fundamentals of College English and EN-110 Freshman Composition – Summer Session A
 - EN210 Introduction to Literature – Summer Session B
 - EN111 Writing for Research – Summer Session C
- "Online courses are for those

students who are self-motivated and who have reliable access to the Internet and a basic suite of software," said James Sellmann, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Students must also feel comfortable using a web browser and search engines, downloading software and documents, and be able to use a web camera and speakers.

The courses meet general education requirements. To download the UOG summer course schedule visit the website www.uog.edu. (UOG)

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Nicolas Maratita Calvo

Born on December 6, 1935
Died on March 31, 2011 at Rota Health Center

In his new life, he now joins:

Wife: Consolation Taimanao Calvo

Parents and Parents In-Law: Jose Ayuyu Calvo, Clara Maratita Calvo, Beatrice Kisa Calvo, Leonardo M. Taimanao & Maria Charfaurous Taimanao

Brothers: Jose M. Calvo, Roberto Hocog Calvo

Stepsisters, Brothers & their Spouses: Ignacio Kisa Mesngon & Carmen C. Mesngon, Josepha Mesngon Manglona, Antonio Kisa Mesngon

Sisters/Brothers in-laws: Jose Rios Ayuyu, Faustina T. Sablan, Maria T. Mereb, Donicio M. Ogo & Rufina T. Ogo

He is survived;

By his children & their spouses: Leonardo T. Calvo; Jose T. Calvo & Patricia B. Calvo (children: Joeweda Ann C. Diaz & John Paul B. Diaz; Nicolas B. Calvo & Doris T. Calvo)

Brothers & Stepsisters & their spouses: Isaac Maratita Calvo & Fidelia M. Calvo; Vito Kisa Calvo & Kathy R. Calvo; John Kisa Calvo & Doris M. Calvo; Vicente A. Lizama & Solidad Mesngon Lizama; Felix T. Manglona, Corona Mundo Calvo, Maria King Mesngon.

Brothers in-laws and their spouses: Peter Johnson & Pilar Taimanao Johnson, Lucia T. Ayuyu, Ramona T. Mantanane & Aquiline Semena, Ramon Masga Sablan, Vicente Charfaurous Taimanao and John Mereb.

Three great grand children, numerous nieces and nephews.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being offered 6 AM at San Francisco De Borja Church, and at 7 PM at San Isidro Church.

The body of Nicolas will be escorted from the Rota Health Center to the San Francisco De Borja Church on Friday, April 8, 2011 at 7:00 AM for viewing, and the Mass of Christian burial will commence at 9:00 AM.

Business

NTSB: Cracks found in 3 grounded Southwest planes

YUMA, Ariz. (AP)—Inspectors have found small, subsurface cracks in three more Southwest Airlines planes that are similar to those suspected of causing a jet-liner to lose pressure and make a harrowing emergency landing in Arizona, a federal investigator said Sunday.

Southwest said in statement that two of its Boeing 737-300s had cracks and will be evaluated and repaired before they are returned to service. A National Transportation Safety Board member told The Associated Press later Sunday that a third plane had been found with cracks developing.

The cracks found in the three planes developed in two lines of riveted joints that run the length of the aircraft.

Nineteen other Boeing 737-300 planes inspected using a special test developed by the manufacturer showed no problems

and will be returned to service. Checks on nearly 60 other jets are expected to be completed by late Tuesday, the airline said.

That means flight cancellations will likely continue until the planes are back in the air. About 600 flights in all were canceled over the weekend after Southwest grounded 79 of its planes.

NTSB board member Robert Sumwalt said Boeing was developing a "service bulletin" for all 737-300 models with comparable flight cycle time as the Arizona jet, which was 15 years old and had about 39,000 take-off and landing cycles.

There are 931 such models in service worldwide, 288 of which in the U.S. fleet.

Boeing's bulletin would strongly suggest extensive checks of two lines of "lap joints" that run the length of the fuselage. The NTSB has not mandated the checks, but Sum-

walt said the FAA is likely to make them mandatory.

Friday's flight carrying 118 people rapidly lost cabin pressure after the plane's fuselage ruptured—causing a 5-foot-long tear—just after takeoff from Phoenix.

Passengers recalled tense minutes after the hole ruptured overhead with a blast and they fumbled frantically for oxygen masks. Pilots made a controlled descent from 34,400 feet into a southwestern Arizona military base. No one was seriously injured.

The tear along a riveted "lap joint" near the roof of the Boeing 737 above the midsection shows evidence of extensive cracking that hadn't been discovered during routine maintenance before the flight—and probably wouldn't have been unless mechanics specifically looked for it—officials said.

Security breach widens at retailers, others

NEW YORK (AP)—Best Buy Co., TiVo Inc., and Walgreen Co. are the latest in a seemingly endless string of companies to warn over the weekend that hackers gained access to customers' files, including email addresses.

The companies all use the same marketing and communications vendor, Epsilon. It's a leading marketing services firm that sends more than 40 billion emails annually and has more than 2,500 clients including seven of the Fortune 10. Epsilon, based in Dallas, issued a brief statement on Friday saying "a full investigation was under way" following the discovery of the breach of some customer client data. The company said that information obtained was limited to names and email addresses and that "no other personal iden-

tifiable information associated with the names was at risk."

Epsilon spokeswoman Jessica Simon declined to comment further late Sunday.

The companies affected said Epsilon informed them of the breach and told them the compromised files do not include any personally identifiable information stored with the marketer. However, hackers could use these email addresses to trick customers into providing more personal information such as Social Security numbers.

Best Buy, the nation's largest consumer electronics chain, tweeted a link to a statement Sunday, saying it was doing its own investigation of the breach. It also reminded customers to ignore emails asking for confidential information. And Delaware-based Barclays Bank,

which issues Visa credit cards on behalf of L.L. Bean, sent emails to its customers warning of the breach but assured them that their credit card numbers are safe. However, it cautioned they could be subject to spam seeking personal information.

TiVo and Walgreens issued similar warnings Saturday.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. and grocery operator Kroger Co., which also use Epsilon to send emails, said Friday they had been affected by the breach. JPMorgan said the files concerned did not include customers' financial details. Kroger said that while a database with customer names and email addresses had been breached, no information connected with consumers' 1-2-3 Rewards MasterCard account had been involved.

Japan business confidence falls after tsunami

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's business confidence fell after last month's tsunami disaster and the ensuing nuclear crisis, and manufacturers were feeling more pessimistic about the economy, the central bank said Monday.

The Bank of Japan's closely watched "tankan" survey of business sentiment showed the main index for large manufacturers slumped to 6 after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, down from 7 before the disasters.

The index of sentiment among big manufacturers in the next three months tumbled to minus 2 from 6. That among small-and mid-sized manufacturers in the coming three months also plummeted to minus 18 from minus 6.

The tankan figure represents the percentage of companies saying business conditions are good minus those saying conditions are unfavorable, with 100

representing the best mood and minus-100 the worst.

The central bank released a post-quake version of its March tankan survey to reflect the impact of the disasters and the nuclear crisis they spawned on the country's business sentiment.

"The results underscored growing worries among all manufacturers after the tsunami," said Yoko Takeda, an economist at Mitsubishi Research Institute Inc. "Some companies lost their factories in the tsunami, while many others were forced to shut down production due to massive disruptions in supply chains."

Last month's magnitude-9.0 earthquake and ensuing tsunami decimated much of northern Japan, killing up to 25,000 people. More than 12,000 are confirmed dead, and another 15,500 are missing.

The March 11 disaster also

destroyed many plants in the region, forcing a string of companies, including Toyota Motor Corp. and Sony Corp., to suspend output due to a shortage in components.

The quake and tsunami also damaged Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s nuclear plant in Fukushima, forcing it to cut its daily power supply in Tokyo and its environs. Power shortages forced many factories to suspend output.

The tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant has continued to spew radiation which has made its way into vegetables, raw milk, tap water in Tokyo, and now the ocean.

Japan's government has said the cost of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated the northeast could reach \$309 billion, making it the world's most expensive natural disaster on record.

Nation

US extends airstrike role in Libya through Monday

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. agreed to NATO's request for a 48-hour extension of American participation in coalition airstrikes against targets in Libya and U.S. lawmakers cautioned Sunday the allies need to know more about the rebels fighting Moammar Gadhafi's forces before providing them with weapons.

Two weeks into the assault on Gadhafi, Republican lawmakers expressed concern that

a stalemate could leave him in control of portions of Libya and with access to stockpiles of chemical weapons.

The U.S. is shifting the combat role to Britain, France and other NATO allies, but American air power is still in demand. Air Force AC-130 gunships and A-10 Thunderbolts and Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers will continue to attack Gadhafi's troops and other sites through Monday evening. These aircraft are

among the most precise in the American arsenal.

After Saturday, no U.S. combat aircraft were to fly strike missions over Libya unless NATO officials specifically asked and authorities in Washington gave their approval. NATO assumed full control last week from the U.S.-led international force for all aspects of the operation in Libya as authorized by U.N. resolutions that include an arms embargo, enforcing the no-fly zone, and protecting civilians from Gadhafi's forces.

In an emailed statement, NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu said Sunday that "poor weather conditions over the last few days" were the reason the alliance made the request. She would not elaborate. "This is a short-term extension which expires on Monday," she said.

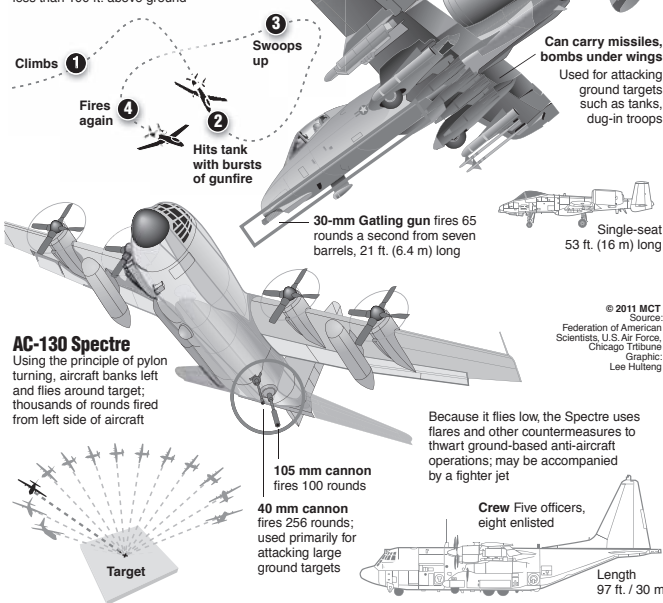
A senior U.S. military official said heavy cloud cover over Libya late last week curtailed allied airstrikes. Gadhafi took advantage of the lull, pushing east into the port cities of Ras Lanouf and Brega, the official said on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military planning. The 48-hour extension is intended to roll back the progress made by Gadhafi's army, the official said.

Heavy hitters

The A-10 and C-130 perform close ground attacks and provide support to protect ground troops or convoys.

A-10 Thunderbolt

Attacks at low altitude, sometimes less than 100 ft. above ground



Government appeals judge's health care ruling

ATLANTA (AP)—The federal health care overhaul's core requirement to make virtually all citizens buy health insurance or face tax penalties is constitutional because Congress has the authority to regulate interstate business, the Justice Department said in its appeal of a ruling that struck down the Obama administration's signature legislation.

The government's 62-page motion filed Friday to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals argued that Congress had the power to enact the overhaul's minimum coverage requirements because it is a "rational means of regulating the way participants in the health care market pay for their services."

The motion also warned other pieces of the overhaul, including a law that blocks insurers from denying coverage to people because of pre-existing conditions, would be "unworkable" without a minimum coverage provision.

Twenty-six states filed a lawsuit that said Congress had exceeded its authority by requiring that all citizens buy health insurance or face tax penalties. U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson of Florida agreed in a Jan. 31 ruling that said President Barack Obama's entire health care overhaul is unconstitutional. It is considered the most sweeping ruling against the health care law.

Vinson ruled against the

overhaul on grounds that Congress exceeded its authority by requiring nearly all Americans to carry health insurance, an idea dating back to Republican proposals from the 1990s but now almost universally rejected by conservatives.

His ruling followed the same reasoning as one last year from a federal judge in Virginia who struck down the insurance requirement. But while the first judge left the rest of the law intact, Vinson invalidated provisions that range from Medicare discounts for seniors with high prescription costs to a change that allows adult children up to age 26 to remain on their parents' coverage.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ill. boy falls from indoor roller coaster, dies

NORRIDGE, Ill. (AP)—A 3-year-old boy died at an indoor family amusement park in suburban Chicago after falling out of a roller coaster, authorities said Sunday. The boy was sitting near the front of the Python Pit roller coaster at the Go Bananas amusement park Saturday when he got underneath the ride's safety bar, Norridge Police Chief James Jobe said. He suffered head injuries in what Jobe described as "a tragic accident." The Cook County medical examiner identified the boy as Jayson Dansby of Dolton, a Chicago suburb, and ruled his death an accident. The cause of death was listed as multiple injuries after the boy was struck and fell from a roller coaster cart.

9/11 kin decry plans to house remains at museum

NEW YORK (AP)—Some relatives of victims who died a decade ago at the World Trade Center decried a plan Sunday to place more than 9,000 unidentified pieces of human remains at a subterranean site at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. A plan that would locate the unclaimed and unidentified remains seven stories below ground behind a wall featuring a quote from Virgil is unacceptable, they said. "The families here today say no," said the families' attorney, Norman Siegel. "They believe that the remains should be placed in a respectful and accessible location, such as something akin to the Tomb of the Unknowns above ground and separate from the museum."

Asia

Quran protests spread to turbulent Afghan east

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP)—Demonstrators battled police in southern Afghanistan's main city on Sunday and took to the streets in the turbulent east for the first time as Western pleas failed to halt a third day of rage over a Florida pastor's burning of the Quran.

An officer was shot dead in a second day of clashes in the city of Kandahar, said provincial health director Qayum Pokhla. Two officers and 18 civilians were wounded, he said.

In Jalalabad, the largest city in the east, hundreds of people blocked the main highway for three hours, shouting for U.S. troops to leave, burning an effigy of President Barack Obama

and stomping on a drawing of a U.S. flag. More than 1,000 people set tires ablaze to block another highway in eastern Parwan province for about an hour, said provincial police chief Sher Ahmad Maladani.

The violence was set off by anger over the March 20 burning of the Quran by a Florida church—the same church whose pastor had threatened to do so last year on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, triggering worldwide outrage.

The protests, which began Friday, also appear to be fueled more broadly by the resentment that has been building for years in Afghanistan over the operations of Western military forces,

blamed for killing and mistreating civilians, and international contractors, seen by many as enriching themselves and fueling corruption at the expense of ordinary Afghans.

Coverage of the trial of a group of U.S. soldiers charged with killing Afghan civilians and the publication of photos of some posing with dead bodies added to the anger.

Thousands of demonstrators in the previously peaceful northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif poured into the streets after Friday's Muslim prayer services and overran a U.N. compound, killing three U.N. staff members and four Nepalese guards.

Engineers pin hopes on polymer to stop nuke leak

TOKYO (AP)—Engineers pinned their hopes on chemicals, sawdust and shredded newspaper to stop highly radioactive water pouring into the ocean from Japan's tsunami-ravaged nuclear plant Sunday as officials said it will take several months to bring the crisis under control, the first time they have provided a timetable.

Concrete already failed to stop the tainted water spewing from a crack in a maintenance pit, and the new mixture did not appear to be working either, but engineers said they were not abandoning it.

The Fukushima Da-ichi plant has been leaking radioactivity since the March 11 tsunami carved a path of destruction along Japan's northeastern coast, killing as many as 25,000 people and knocking out key cooling systems that kept it from overheating. People living within 12 miles (20 kilometers) of the plant have been forced to abandon their homes.

The government said Sun-

day it will be several months before the radiation stops and permanent cooling systems are restored. Even after that happens, there will be years of work ahead to clean up the area around the complex and figure out what to do with it.

"It would take a few months until we finally get things under control and have a better idea about the future," said Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency spokesman Hidehiko Nishiyama. "We'll face a crucial turning point within the next few months, but that is not the end."

His agency said the timetable is based on the first step, pumping radioactive water into tanks, being completed quickly and the second, restoring cooling systems, being done within a matter of weeks or months.

Every day brings some new problem at the plant, where workers have often been forced to retreat from repair efforts because of high radiation levels. On Sunday, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. announced it had

found the bodies of two workers missing since the tsunami.

Radiation, debris and explosions kept workers from finding them until Wednesday, and then the announcement was delayed several days out of respect for their families.

TEPCO officials said they believed the workers ran down to a basement to check equipment after the magnitude-9.0 earthquake that preceded the tsunami. They were there when the massive wave swept over the plant.

"It pains us to have lost these two young workers who were trying to protect the power plant amid the earthquake and tsunami," TEPCO Chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata said in a statement.

On Saturday, workers discovered an 8-inch (20-centimeter) crack in a maintenance pit at the plant and said they believe water from it may be the source of some of the high levels of radioactive iodine that have been found in the ocean for more than a week.

province, officials said.

'Sacred' turtle captured in Vietnam lake

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—An ailing giant turtle considered sacred by many Vietnamese was captured in a lake in central Hanoi on Sunday by rescuers who hope to give it medical attention. Thousands of onlookers cheered at Hoan Kiem Lake as the mammoth creature was pulled in after escaping capture last month. It took 50 workers two hours to net the turtle and lure into a cage which was then transported by boat to a small island that was recently expanded and equipped with a small pond, known as the "turtle hospital," said Ha Dinh Duc, who has studied the creature for 20 years and considers himself its caretaker.

Sufism, a mystical branch of Islam that sees dancing, chanting and visiting holy sites as expressions of devotion to God.

Filipino gunmen send 2 of 15 hostages to get food

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Armed tribesmen who kidnapped 15 people, mostly teachers, in the southern Philippines sent two of the captives Sunday to get food and water and threatened to harm the remaining hostages if they did not return, police said. On Friday, five Manobo tribesmen abducted the 15 people, who were walking along a road from graduation ceremonies at three schools, and took them at gunpoint to a forested area of Prosperidad town in southeastern Agusan del Sur

World

Gadhafi envoy in Europe to seek end to crisis

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—An envoy of Moammar Gadhafi told Greece's prime minister Sunday that the Libyan leader was seeking a way out of his country's crisis two weeks after his government's attacks to put down a rebellion drew international airstrikes, Greek officials said.

Abdul-Ati al-Obeidi, a former Libyan prime minister who has served as a Gadhafi envoy during the crisis, will travel next to Turkey and Malta in a sign that Gadhafi's regime may be softening its hard line in the face of the sustained attacks.

"From the Libyan envoy's comments it appears that the regime is seeking a solution," Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas said in a statement after the meeting in Athens.

The foreign minister said the Greek side stressed the international community's call for Libya to comply with the U.N. resolution that authorized the airstrikes and demanded Gadhafi and the rebels end hostilities.

The message, Droutsas said, was: "Full respect and implementation of the United Nations decisions, an immediate cease-fire, an end to violence and hostilities, particularly against the

civilian population of Libya."

Gadhafi's government has declared several cease-fires but has not abided by them.

Few other details of the Athens talks were released publicly.

On Friday, the Libyan envoy had said Gadhafi's government was attempting to hold talks with the U.S., Britain and France in an effort to halt the international airstrikes that began March 19 and which have pounded Libya's troops and armor and grounded its air force.

Gadhafi's superior forces had been close to taking the rebel capital of Benghazi in eastern Libya before the international military campaign.

Rebel forces made up of defected army units and armed civilians have since seized much of Libya's eastern coast, but have been unable to push westward toward the capital, Tripoli.

On Sunday, Gadhafi's forces pressed on with attacks against Misrata, the last key city in the western half of the country still largely under rebel control despite a weeks-long assault.

Government troops besieged civilian areas for around two hours Sunday morning with Grad rockets and mortar shells

Abidjan holds its breath, awaiting final battle

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Residents barricaded themselves inside their homes Sunday, blanketing windows and pushing furniture against doors as this country on Africa's western coast tensely awaited the final battle between the two men who claim the presidency.

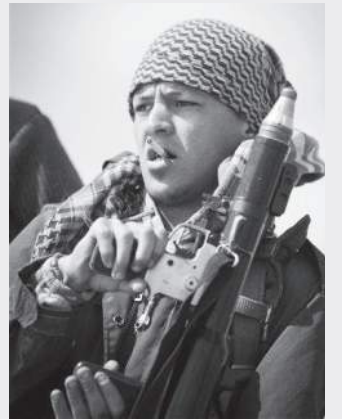
Fighters backing the internationally recognized president, Alassane Ouattara, amassed at a tollbooth on the city's northern edge, preparing for the final assault. Their leader was declared the winner of last November's election, but Ouattara has not been able to assume office because outgoing president Laurent Gbagbo is refusing to yield power.

Water has been cut off to much

of Abidjan, and on the empty streets, a handful of women with basins could be seen hurriedly crossing the waterfront highway to reach the lagoon. Men ventured out with plastic bags to scoop up water, holding the bags high in the air to signal to soldiers in firing positions that they were not armed.

Only about 20 miles separates the thousands of pro-Ouattara foot soldiers readying for battle from the lagoonside district where the presidential palace and mansion are located.

A resident of the Cocody neighborhood where the mansion is located said around 700 Gbagbo supporters had gathered at the gates of the compound Sunday, after state television, still controlled by the



AP

A rebel fighter holds a cigarette in his mouth and a rocket propelled grenade launcher in his hands, near to the front line east of Brega, Libya Sunday, April 3, 2011.

and lined a main street with snipers, said a doctor in the city.

Two shells landed on a field hospital, killing one person and injuring 11, he said. The attacks, including tank fire, began again after nightfall, he said. He did not want to be identified by name out of fear for his security.

A Turkish ship carrying 250 wounded from Misrata docked in Benghazi Sunday. The boat, which carried medical supplies, was also expected to pick up around 60 wounded people being treated in various hospitals in Benghazi, as well as 30 Turks and 40 people from Greece, Ukraine, Britain, Uzbekistan, Germany and Finland.

entrenched ruler, called on the population to form a human shield to protect the presidential palace. The resident, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal, said the supporters had been armed with AK-47 assault rifles.

Toussaint Alain, Gbagbo's representative in Europe, told reporters in Paris that Gbagbo is not giving up.

"President Gbagbo, I have said, is at the residence of the head of state, his usual workplace, and he is managing the crisis with teams that have been put into place to deal with this aggression coming from the outside," Alain said. "It's not up to America or France to decide who must lead the Ivory Coast."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban twin bombers kill 42 at Pakistani shrine

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—A pair of Taliban suicide bombers struck one of Pakistan's most important Sufi Muslim shrines on Sunday, killing 42 people and wounding 100 who were celebrating the anniversary of its founder's death with music, meditation and other practices abhorred by Islamist militant groups. Another bomber was wounded when his explosive vest partially detonated. He was arrested along with a fourth militant who was seized before attacking, police official Ahmad Mubarak said. The attack on the Sakhi Sarwar shrine ended a months-long respite in a relentless militant campaign against the shrines founded by ancient adherents of

WORLD BRIEFS

Editors quit to save Bahraini newspaper from ban

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Bahraini authorities lifted a ban on the main opposition newspaper Sunday after its three top editors resigned to save the paper from a campaign to muzzle anti-government media and crack down on the Shiite opposition in the Sunni-ruled Gulf nation. Al-Wasat, the country's most popular newspaper, did not appear Sunday after Bah-

rain's Information Ministry ordered it to close down. Al-Wasat's online edition was also blocked. The state-run Bahrain News Agency accused the paper of "unethical" coverage of the uprising against the country's rulers.

Mexico City street gangs mimic cartel violence

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Two headless bodies are dumped on a street in suburban Mex-

ico City along with a message sent by a mysterious group called "The Hand with Eyes." Days later, a severed head shows up in a car abandoned outside an elementary school in the same suburb. For drug lords, this sprawling metropolis of 20 million has been a favorite hide-out and place to launder money, making Mexico City somewhat of an oasis from the brutal cartel violence along the border and in outlying states.

Focus

Disaster aid puts new face on US military in Japan

By ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SENDAI, Japan (AP)—Just one year after tensions over U.S. military bases in Japan forced out a prime minister, a relief mission mounted by American soldiers after the earthquake and tsunami is showing a new and welcome face for troops the Japanese have hosted—sometimes grudgingly—for decades.

Roughly 20,000 U.S. troops have been mobilized in “Operation Tomodachi,” or “Friend.” It is the biggest bilateral humanitarian mission the U.S. has conducted in Japan, its most important ally in Asia, and it is ramping up fast.

As logistics gradually improve, U.S. troops have been moving farther into hard-hit zones and providing tons of relief supplies and badly needed manpower to help the hundreds of thousands of Japanese whose lives were shattered in the March 11 disaster.

In a part of Japan that hosts few U.S. bases, the Americans in uniform are a high-profile presence.

“To be honest, I didn’t think much about the U.S. troops until now,” said Arika Ota, 29, who works at an amusement center in the coastal city of Sendai. “But when I see them working at the airport every day, I’m really thankful. They are working really hard. I never imagined they could help us so much.”

The Sendai Airport cleanup is one of the troops’ most visible—and successful—operations so far.

Sendai is the biggest city in the region hit by the tsunami and its airport was utterly destroyed. The grounds and runways were covered in mud, rubble and more than 1,000 vehicles that were tossed about by the sea. The first floor of the terminal building was caked in sandy sludge, its windows were shattered by the tsunami and its shops were a jumble of garbage and broken souvenirs.

Now, the runways are clear enough to handle large cargo planes, the tossed-about cars have been placed in rows and the second floor houses a command center.

Capt. Robert Gerbract, who is in charge of the U.S. Marines’ cleanup operations, said that when he arrived last week he felt like he had stepped back in time.

“It looked like if you had left an airport alone for 1,000 years. It was like an archaeological site. It was hard to figure out where to begin,” Gerbract, an Iraq veteran from Wantagh, New York, said as he looked out at the runway from the Marines’ makeshift command center in the airport’s departure lounge.

For Marines like Gerbract, it’s a satisfying assignment.



U.S. Army Sgt. Maurice White, 28, of Richmond, Va., from 35th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Support Group moves damaged vehicles from the parking lot of Sendai airport, Saturday, March 26, 2011 in Sendai, Japan. AP

“I’d much rather be carrying relief food packages than a rifle, to be honest,” he said.

The Marines are just one facet of the U.S. operation.

■ Within days of the tsunami, the USS *Ronald Reagan* was stationed about 100 miles (160 kilometers) off Japan’s northeastern shore. It had to reposition itself due to radiation from the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear facility but is now sending sorties to hard-hit towns. The U.S. Navy has 19 ships, 140 aircraft and 18,282 personnel assigned to assist in the operation. It is sending barges filled with freshwater to help cool the reactor site.

■ The Air Force has opened its bases for relief flights. Its transport planes have flown dozens of missions and its fighters have flown over the devastation in search of survivors. Two of its aircraft have helped the Japanese monitor the nuclear plant.

■ Nearly 500 soldiers with the U.S. Army in Japan, which has fewer troops than other branches, have delivered blankets and other supplies and are conducting support and refueling for military helicopter operations.

The U.S. forces stress that they are not taking a lead role. That is being done by Japan itself, which has mobilized more of its troops than at anytime since World War II.

“What we’re doing is coordination with the Japanese army,” said Gunnery Sgt. Leo Salinas, of Dallas, Texas. “Every mission we do is a bilateral mission. They are all Japanese-led and under Japanese initiative. These

“To be honest, I didn’t think much about the U.S. troops until now. But when I see them working at the airport every day, I’m really thankful. They are working really hard. I never imagined they could help us so much.”

guys are our allies and, more than that, they are our friends. Whatever they want us to do, we will do.”

The Japanese public is very pro-America and generally sees the military presence as a benefit.

But the relationship is complicated by a strong pacifist undercurrent in public opinion borne from World War II. Japan’s own military is strictly limited to national self-defense and many Japanese feel the U.S. presence here could make their country a target or draw Japan into a conflict involving American troops over Taiwan or other flash points.

Even at the shelters where crucial U.S. help is arriving, some Japanese expressed mixed feelings about the troops.

“I feel thankful that they are



U.S. military and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers help clean mud from tsunami floodwaters in a high school gymnasium during their joint operation, Wednesday, March 30, 2011 in Ishinomaki, northeastern Japan. AP

helping us,” Yoko Hiraoka, 40, said as a convoy of U.S. Marines arrived at her evacuation center in the city of Higashi Matsushima on Saturday. The Marines set up showers, which the evacuees have lacked for two weeks.

“But I still have reservations about having U.S. troops in Japan,” Hiraoka said. “I’m happy today, and I appreciate their help, but it doesn’t fundamentally change the way I feel.”

About 50,000 U.S. troops are stationed throughout Japan under a mutual security treaty signed in the 1960s. Tokyo strongly supports the alliance, because it saves Japan money on defense and serves as a powerful deterrent force in the region, particularly as China’s military strength and economic clout rise.

But opposition to the bases is high on the southern island of Okinawa, a strategically important outpost that hosts more U.S. troops than any other part of Japan.

That concentration of forces—including the Marines who make up the bulk of the on-the-ground assistance here—is an endemic source of friction with local residents, who complain of overcrowding, the danger of accidents and base-related crime.

Tensions between the Marines and Okinawans boiled in 1995, when two Marines and a sailor raped a local schoolgirl. The outrage from that attack led to an agreement that the U.S. military would reduce its presence in Okinawa.

Both sides agreed to close down Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, an airfield in the middle of a heavily populated area that has long symbolized the military burden for Okinawans.

But after more than a decade, the base remains open. Washington wants to replace Futenma with another facility on Okinawa before relocating 8,500 Marines to the U.S. territory of Guam, as it had agreed to do by 2014.

Okinawans have strongly opposed the construction of any new facilities.

Unable to make any headway in the dispute, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama was forced to resign last year.

Koichi Nakano, a political science professor at Tokyo’s Sophia University, said he believes the disaster relief mission will help build goodwill, but does not expect it to have much impact in Okinawa.

“The goodwill of the Japanese to the Americans ... even to the American presence in Okinawa, has not really been a problem of the mainland,” he said. “The problem remains Okinawa. The Okinawans will be saying, ‘Of course it’s good what the Americans did, but why do the bases have to be in Okinawa?’”

Overdrive

2011 Optima brings Kia closer to new image



NUTS & BOLTS

What we say: This is a Kia?

Pro: Styling, standard features, performance, fuel economy

Con: Wait, I'll think of something.

Engine: 2.0-liter DOHC four-cylinder

Wheelbase: 110 inches

Length: 190.7 inches

Weight: 3,223 pounds

Cargo space: 15.4 cubic feet

EPA rating (city/highway): 24/35 mpg

Fuel consumption: 28.7 mpg

Fuel type: Regular

Base price, base model: \$18,995

Base price, test model: \$22,495

As tested: \$26,440

camera, panoramic sunroof, satellite radio, navigation system, heated and cooled front seats, leather seating surfaces, heated rear seats, driver's seat memory, heated steering wheel, push-button start, keyless entry, air-conditioned glove box, tilt/telescopic steering wheel, express down front power windows and automatic headlamps.

I can hear you say, "Sure, Printz, you armchair hedonist. How much does it cost?"

How about less than \$28,000?

And it's more than price.

The cabin is roomy, with good accommodations for four (five if they're related). That said, the rear seat's upswept side window styling and low roof lend a claustrophobic feel to the rear, but legroom is generous. The front seat is very firm, but flat, with minimal side bolsters.

And the trunk? Big enough to head for Wally World.

Being based on the Sonata, the Optima should prove to be reliable.

That said, I did have one glitch: The car had great difficulty holding the Sirius Satellite Radio signal, a problem I have heard about anecdotally from other Kia owners. But that wouldn't be enough to prevent me from popping for one of these.

While the Optima shares its name with its bland predecessor, the 2011 model has shed its rental car skin and emerged reborn.

sion. It's standard on the SX.

Kia Motors America delivered an EX with the base engine for a week of testing.

The performance didn't surprise me; it was similar to the Hyundai Sonata.

The car feels agile, thanks to quick steering and a suspension that keeps body motions in check. The ride is comfortable. You'll notice bumps, but only the worst ones pound through. Body motions are well controlled. The cabin is quiet, although there was modest tire and road noise.

Braking was effective. Anti-lock disc brakes, electronic stability control, front and side air bags, and "Hill Start Assist Control," which prevents you from rolling backward on a hill when accelerating from a stop, are standard.

But it's the sheer number of features that makes the car a compelling value: rear back-up

vent accents the front fenders. A chrome spear arches across the top of the side windows. The rear boasts styling so sophisticated, you'd think it's from an Audi.

The Optima comes in 3 trim levels: base LX, mid-level EX and top-of-the-line SX. LX and EX models come with a 200-horsepower, 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine mated to a six-speed automatic transmission. A six-speed manual transmission is available on the LX. The EX also can be fitted with a 274-horsepower, 2.0-liter four-cylinder mated to the automatic transmis-

with a powerful visual presence that throws down the gauntlet: Kia is no longer a punch line.

Nothing states that more powerfully than the Optima, Kia's midsize front-wheel-drive sedan.

The Optima shares its mechanical package with the popular Hyundai Sonata. Certainly, the Sonata's flowing style is stunning, but the Kia's is even more so.

This car's styling is a feast for the eyes. The upper shape of the grille is repeated on the upper edge of the windshield. A small

an affiliate of Hyundai, many Kia vehicles use Hyundai underpinnings, and in some cases are built in the same plant.

But its prior reputation lingers. What's a company to do when its brand's equity is spent?

Hire Peter Shreyer as your design director. Once an employee at Audi, Shreyer has brought a funky sophistication to Kia's styling. First came the Soul, followed by the Sorento, Sportage and now the Optima. With each new vehicle, Shreyer has upped the wattage, endowing the marque's new products

Kia is no longer a punch line. Nothing states that more powerfully than the Optima, Kia's midsize front-wheel-drive sedan.

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

If I say "the ultimate driving machine," you can name the car, picture the car's styling and characterize its handling. That comes from decades of deliberate brand-building. Today, BMW's styling is fairly conservative, but its identity is firmly established.

If you're Kia, it's a different story.

When it was an independent automaker, Kia built some questionable machines. Now as

Check thermostat to explain mysterious gunk

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: When I took my 2005 Ford F-150 (a 5.4-liter Supercab with 74,000 miles on it) in for an oil change, the mechanic asked if I put a stop-leak additive in it because he found cream-colored moisture in the oil fill cap. We have not put stop-leak or anything else in it. He suggested doing a radiator and compression check. Should I?

ANSWER: The milky, cream-colored "gunk" in the oil filler cap is probably moisture condensing in the crankcase and mixing with the oil. This is relatively common in colder weather. As the engine warms up, the moisture in the air inside the engine condenses into liquid form and mixes with the circulating oil, leaving a milky residue on the dipstick, inside of the valve covers and oil filler cap.

This condensation will be worse if the engine does not fully warm up due to relatively short drives and/or is not driven long enough—20 minutes or more—to reach full temperature and evaporate the internal moisture.

The first test should be the

thermostat to ensure the engine is warming up to full operating temperature. Longer drives and more frequent oil changes will help clean out this residue before it has a chance to turn into sludge.

■ ■ ■

Q: We have a 2002 Ford Taurus with electrical problems. Our car will work for several weeks, and then suddenly the battery goes dead. The courtesy lights will not shut off about 25 percent of the time. We have to cycle through the lock-unlock process several times in order to shut them off. On two occasions the lights were off when I left the vehicle, but on when I returned. We often find it necessary to rotate the dimmer feature to "lock on, lock off" in order to turn the dome light off. My mechanic suggests replacing the courtesy lamp relay.

A: Both the courtesy lamp relay and the general electronic module (GEM) are under the dash on the driver's side. The relay provides power to the courtesy lamps, and the GEM module controls a variety of features, including the cour-

tesy lamps, interior and exterior lighting, keyless entry, wipers, power windows and more.

But before replacing either of these, have your mechanic test the ignition switch itself. Any worn or intermittent contacts in this switch can cause the type of symptoms you've described. If the relay or module were at fault, a fault code should be stored in the GEM module.

■ ■ ■

Q: Is it dangerous to use the cruise control as if it were the gas pedal?

A: Depends on what you mean by "gas pedal."

First, cruise control systems are not designed to allow engagement below 30 miles per hour, so it's not possible to "drive" the car around town using the cruise control "accel" button. Above that speed, if the cruise control is engaged it is possible and acceptable to increase the vehicle's speed by pushing or holding the "accel" button. There's no particular harm doing this, and it saves having to accelerate the vehicle with the throttle pedal to the new, higher speed and then having to set that speed by pushing the

"set" button again.

Of course, to lower the vehicle's speed you have to either push the brake pedal or disengage the cruise control. If you slowed by pushing the brake pedal, the "resume" button would accelerate the vehicle back up to the preset speed.

In essence, the cruise control is designed to allow the vehicle to maintain a preset speed with the driver not having to hold the throttle pedal in a fixed position. The "accel" button is designed to accelerate the vehicle to a higher "cruise" speed without having to use the throttle. But this button is not designed to be a substitute for the throttle pedal in normal driving.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paul.brand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

How to get an accurate fuel mileage reading

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: I've checked the mileage on my car several times, and I come up with completely different numbers. Is there a way I can get a really accurate idea of the mileage?—Cathy L. Brawn, Lake Mary, Fla.

ANSWER: For a baseline, look up your vehicle at FuelEconomy.gov. You'll find it lists the EPA-rated mile for city and highway, which—let's face it—is impossible for us to duplicate. But click on the name of the car, and it gives you the overall average mileage: A 2009 Chevrolet Impala might be rated at 19 mpg city, 29 mph highway, but click on the Impala's name, and you'll see the overall average is supposed to be 23 mpg. So that is what we are shooting for.

Here's how I do it: I fill the gas tank at one particular pump, at one particular gas station, and let the nozzle shut off the gas flow—I don't try to keep squeezing in the gas. I then follow a set 40-odd-mile loop that covers some city, some country, some highway driving that leads back to that same gas pump. Then I fill up again, and let the nozzle shut off the flow—using the same pump is helpful, because some nozzles are more sensitive than others. Take the reading of the gasoline you used, and divide it into how many miles you drove.

If you used two gallons and drove 40 miles, you got 20 mpg. Even if you have a trip computer that gives you a mileage readout, I suggest checking it with this method—I've seen trip computers that are as much as 10 percent off. If your mileage is, say, 15 to 20 percent worse than the EPA suggests (it will likely be a little less because we are stuck with E10 ethanol gas), consult your mechanic.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

Life & Style

Taylor Swift, Miranda Lambert top ACM Awards

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The young women of country ruled The Academy of Country Music Awards on Sunday night with Taylor Swift winning the prestigious entertainer of the year award and the night's top nominee, Miranda Lambert, taking home a leading four trophies.

Swift covered her mouth with her hands, did a little dance and hugged Brad Paisley and Lambert on the way to the stage after winning the fan-voted award, the only major ACM award determined by popular vote; peers and industry insiders determine the other awards.

"This is the first time that I've ever won this and I'm just losing my mind," said the 21-year-old, whose album "Speak Now" sold 1 million copies in its first week alone when it was released last fall. "The fact that this is from the fans makes it so special."

Lambert was also up for entertainer of the year. While she lost that award, she was the night's big winner. Lambert's "The House That Built Me," written by Allen Shamblin and Tom Douglas, won song, single record and video of the year; Lambert shared in all of those wins. It mirrors a difficult time in Lambert's life, but those times are over and the song has helped Lambert's

star rise to new heights. She also won her second straight ACM for top female vocalist.

Lady Antebellum continued its scorching run behind its breakthrough album "Need You Now," finishing the night with three trophies. The trio of Hillary Scott, Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood, who won five Grammys earlier this year, won album of the year as artist and producer, and also won top vocal group for the second straight year.

Lambert and Lady A, who are the best of friends, celebrated on stage after Lambert, winner of last year's album of the year award for "Revolution," announced the album winner.

"Thank you, Miranda Lambert, for winning this last year and not being in the category this year," Lady A's Charles Kelley quipped.

Brad Paisley claimed his fifth straight top male vocalist of the year award, a win he said felt as good as his first.

"This is way too many for me," Paisley told the audience before thanking fans and joking, "I don't know who got paid what. No, I'm kidding, kidding. It's all very fair."

Sugarland won vocal duo of the year for the second time.

The Band Perry claimed the best



Taylor Swift poses backstage with the award for entertainer of the year at the 46th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 3, 2011.

AP source: Couric leaving news anchor post

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Couric is leaving her anchor post at "CBS Evening News" less than five years after becoming the first woman to solely helm a network TV evening newscast.

A network executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity because Couric has not officially announced her plans, reported the move to The Associated Press on Sunday night. The 54-year-old anchor is expected to launch a syndicated talk show in 2012 and several companies are vying for her services.

Couric's move from NBC's "Today" show was big news in 2006, and she began in the anchor chair with a flourish that September. She tried to incorporate her strengths as an interviewer into a standard evening news format and millions of people who normally didn't watch the news at night checked it out. But they drifted away and the evening newscast reverted to a more traditional broadcast.

After those first few weeks, the "CBS Evening News" settled into third place in the ratings and is well behind leader Brian Williams at NBC's "Nightly News" and second-place Diane Sawyer at ABC's "World News."

No departure date has been set for Couric. Her CBS News contract expires on June 4.

"We're having ongoing discussions with Katie Couric," said CBS News spokeswoman Sonya McNair on Sunday. "We have no announcements to make at this time. Until we do, we will continue to decline comment on rumor or speculation."

Said Matthew Hiltzik, Couric's spokesman: "Ditto."

Still, discussions are already under way about who will replace Couric on the evening newscast. Russ Mitchell, Scott Pelley and Harry Smith are among the internal CBS candidates,

and new CBS News Chairman Jeff Fager is also expected to look outside the company.

Couric, who was on vacation last week, was reluctant to talk about her future when she appeared on fellow CBS host David Letterman's show on March 22. "Once you take that anchor chair, that's what you do," Letterman told her.

"Really?" Couric answered.

"Look at Walter Cronkite, look at Tom Brokaw, look at Brian Williams, look at Peter Jennings, look at all these people," Letterman said. "They get in it, they saddle up and they ride into the sunset."

Couric smiled widely and said she loved doing the evening news and was proud of her work, but made no future commitments. Despite the ratings problems, the "CBS Evening News" won the Edward R. Murrow Award as best newscast in 2008 and 2009. Couric's interview with then-Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin in 2008 was a memorable moment in the campaign after Palin couldn't or wouldn't answer Couric's question about books or magazines she regularly read.

Even with those high points, broadcast news economics had changed markedly since she signed on with CBS and her reported \$15 million a year salary became increasingly hard to justify for a third-place telecast. Fager, the "60 Minutes" executive producer, was installed as CBS News chairman two months ago and new executives frequently like to put their own stamp on newscasts.

Rome Hartman, Couric's first executive producer at the "CBS Evening News," said that while Couric's tenure clearly didn't work out as well as CBS hoped, "I don't think it's right to think of it as, or call it, a failure."

Sheen does better in Chicago after Detroit failure

CHICAGO (AP)—After being heckled and booed in Detroit, Charlie Sheen made some changes to his road show Sunday night — and this time, it ended with a standing ovation.

Sheen used a talk show-style format at his Chicago show, with a master of ceremonies asking the actor questions. The interviewer, who didn't identify himself, kept Sheen on track and gave the actor a chance to make some snarky comments.

Some audience members said the second performance on Sheen's "My Violent Torpedo of Truth/Defeat is Not an Option" tour wasn't outstanding, but at least it had amusing moments. And Sheen drew cheers throughout the show, which began and ended with a standing ovation.

Mackenzie Barth, 19, said it was a "weird" show. "At least no one was booing," she added.

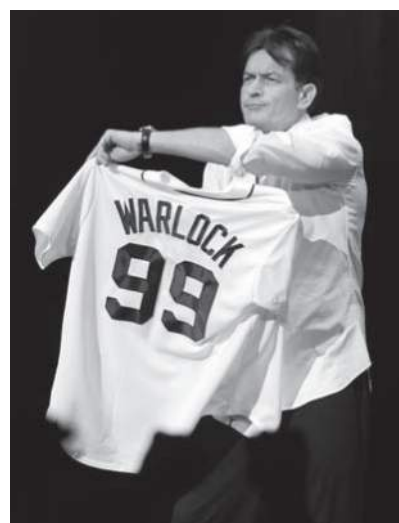
During the show at the historic 3,600-seat Chicago Theatre, Sheen smoked cigarettes and answered questions about his marriages, his career and his life with the women he calls his "goddesses."

"They have not disallowed me everything that makes me happy. Period. The end," Sheen said of the former porn star and an actress who live with him.

Sheen also had some snappy comebacks for the emcee.

Asked how many times he had been married, Sheen retorted, "Seven-thousand. That's why I'm broke."

Asked why he's "paid for sex" in the past, Sheen responded, "Because I had millions to blow. I ran out of things to buy."



Actor Charlie Sheen shows off his Detroit Tigers jersey during his performance at the Fox Theatre in Detroit, Saturday, April 2, 2011.

Sheen also seemed to have a better rapport with the Chicago crowd. As the show began, some in the crowd began chanting "Detroit sucks." When one audience member asked Sheen to take off his shirt, he swapped his T-shirt for a collared shirt thrown at him by a larger man in the audience. He proceeded to wear the too big shirt for the rest of the show and referred throughout the show to the man who had given it to him.

Early on, Sheen urged the audience in an obscenity-laced statement "not to become (expletive) Detroit tonight. Let's show Detroit how it's (expletive) done." Later when Sheen was asked by the interviewer when he had started "winning," Sheen responded, "The winning started in (expletive) Chicago."

new artist award moments after singing their hit "If I Die Young." It was the trio of two brothers and one sister's second win after taking home top new vocal duo or group before the awards. They were competing with Eric Church for top new artist.

"We believe that country music is the people's music," Kimberly Perry said. "And it is our greatest desire to be their band."

Zac Brown Band, up for five awards, took home vocal event of the year with Alan Jackson for their collaboration on "As She's Walking Away."

Paisley kicked off the ACMs with a little help from friends: Three members of the iconic group Alabama joined Paisley on his new song "Old Alabama," bringing the crowd at the MGM Grand to its feet Sunday night. It was one of several big collaborations during the show. Steven Tyler and Carrie Underwood rocked out to "Undo It" then segued to the Aerosmith classic "Walk This Way." James Taylor, who Brown calls his greatest influence, joined the singer's band on a medley of "Colder Weather" and "Sweet Baby Jane," and Rihanna, sporting a flaming reddish-orange pixie haircut, performed her song "California King Bed" with Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles.

"She is a wonderful performer," Nettles told reporters later. "Obviously, country music is hip and it's cool and it's fresh, and I think her being here tonight is even more testimony to that."

Ellen Olson, who was wearing a black T-shirt with Sheen's catchphrase "Winning!" in white across the front, said she enjoyed the performance.

"I think he interacted with the audience a lot, which made it more funny," said Olson, 55, of Elmwood Park.

Before the show, audience members said they had low expectations based on what they heard and read about the inaugural performance.

"We figured we'd try it out and see what happens, and if it's bad, we'll leave," said Katie Iglehart, 23, of Chicago, who was attending the show with a friend.

Like the Chicago show, Sheen's Detroit performance began with thunderous applause. But it soon disintegrated before ending 70 minutes later. In between, Sheen tried to appease his audience with rants, a rapper and a question and answer session, ultimately concluding the first show was "an experiment."

Sheen, 45, reappeared after the house lights went up to thank the hundreds who remained.

It wasn't clear when the former "Two and a Half Men" star lost the audience, but there were many awkward moments.

Sheen, known for his wild partying and rampant drug use, said he thought Detroit would be a good place to tell some stories about crack cocaine. The remark prompted loud, immediate boos.

At another point, Sheen showed a short film he wrote, directed and produced years ago called "RPG." He sat in the front row to watch the flick, which starred a much younger Johnny Depp. Again, more boos.

Prince Harry emerging as cool, fun face of monarchy

LONDON (AP)—He's been filmed trekking through the Arctic, gives a smoldering look from the cover of a men's magazine and is being targeted by legions of young women who only a few years ago would have been lust-ing after his older brother.

With all the attention being paid to Prince Harry, you might forget that Prince William's the one getting married.

"He's a cool guy, he's an action man, and he obviously enjoys quite a good time," said Robert Johnston, associate editor at GQ magazine, which featured a front page, black-and-white photo of the 26-year-old royal. "It's quite a potent mix."

This week's magazine shows a pensive prince, square-jawed and tousle-haired, his lips curling into a smile. GQ's story covers Harry's high-profile polar expedition with Walking

With The Wounded, a U.K. charity devoted to helping injured veterans.

It's work that has commanded a fair amount of television time given the dramatic crises gripping the Middle East, North Africa, the Ivory Coast and Japan.

Camera crews have tracked the prince as he goes through his punishing Arctic training, plunging into ice-cold water and struggling across the fields of blinding snow on the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard. Clips of Harry, sporting stylish sunglasses and a wisp of stubble, have played better than those of his balding older brother, who was last pictured in faded green overalls showing his grandmother around a Welsh helicopter bay.

The British monarchy's female fans have noticed.

"Will's a bit more like

Charles, more serious. Harry's a bit more like Di," his popular and glamorous mother, said Katie Steward, a 44-year-old bartender who planned to watch the royal wedding procession on April 29.

She put Harry's charm down to his rebelliousness, but her friend, Emma Dunthorne, a 42-year-old teaching assistant, put it more succinctly.

"Everybody likes a bad boy," she said.

Even those with little interest in the royalty, like 19-year-old student Sasha O'Connor, who was sitting with friends at nearby cafe, said they'd prefer Harry.

"William looks more and more like his father every day," O'Connor said.

It isn't unusual for the younger siblings of royalty to get sexier coverage than their throne-bound relatives. Prince Andrew



In this handout photo released by Conde Nast on Monday, March 28, 2011, Britain's Prince Harry on the cover of GQ magazine.

was always seen as much more of a party-happy playboy than older brother Prince Charles, so much so that he once labored under the nickname "Randy Andy." Queen Elizabeth II's younger sister, the late Princess Margaret, was a 1950s fashion

icon, her easy glamour contrasting with the queen's tasteful-but-conservative style.

Johnston said younger siblings often had it easier because they aren't as completely captive to their royal roles.

"The heir to the throne has

to have this grandeur," he said. "Not surprisingly, William has a more distant feel to him than his brother."

But Harry's guy-next-door act has occasionally gotten him booed off the stage. Many stories about the prince still mention his late-night London clubbing, his infamous strip club visit, his marijuana use, and the time he made a front page appearance in the nation's biggest-selling daily, cupping his hands around a TV presenter's breasts. His biggest faux pas to date, appearing in a Nazi uniform at a costume party, was compounded when, years later, he was caught referring to a Pakistani army cadet using a racial slur.

Yet the Harry who spoke to journalists ahead of his trip Arctic fundraising trek seems a world away from the party prince caught spilling out of exclusive nightspots, his youthful irresponsibility sanded away, perhaps, by his military training and his short-lived deployment to Afghanistan in 2007-2008.

Right now, the only fear for Harry is that he'll embarrass his brother in front of a millions-strong television audience with an indiscreet best man's speech.

Harry has promised as much, telling the BBC television in Norway that his speech at William's wedding might "make him lose some hair."

'Hop' skips to box-office lead with \$38.1M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Easter bunny has hopped into the top spot at the weekend box office.

Russell Brand's family comedy "Hop" debuted at No. 1 with \$38.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

With Brand providing the voice of the reluctant new Easter bunny, "Hop" bound well beyond the expectations of industry analysts, who had figured the movie would debut in the \$25 million range.

Released by Universal, "Hop" matched the year's best debut, for "Rango," which opened a month ago with \$38.1 million.

Jake Gyllenhaal's action thriller "Source Code" debuted at No. 2 with \$15.1 million. The haunted-house tale "Insidious" opened at No. 3 with \$13.5 million.

A Summit Entertainment release, "Source Code" stars Gyllenhaal as an Army officer tracking down a terrorist bomb-

er by entering the mind of a man aboard a train that's about to be blown up.

"Insidious," released by Film District, features Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne as a couple with three young children who encounter an eerie force after moving into a new house.

The previous weekend's top movie, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules," fell to No. 4

same weekend last year, when "Clash of the Titans" had a summer-style blockbuster opening of \$61.2 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

Revenues so far this year are at \$2.3 billion, off 20 percent from 2010, which had an unusual string of hits during a typically slow season for movie theaters.

"Even when we have a really strong weekend like this, we can't win, again because of last year's incredible run of big weekend after big weekend early in the year," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

Despite a slow market, "Hop" might be able to leg it out for a while at theaters, with Easter still three weeks away. A combination of live-action and computer animation, the movie has Brand's runaway bunny finding refuge with a grown-up slacker (James Marsden).

Biopic with Travolta: 'Gotti: Three Generations'

A highly anticipated film starring John Travolta as the leader of the legendary Gambino crime family has a name: "Gotti: Three Generations."

Film spokesman Steve Honig confirmed the title Saturday and says the biopic about "Dapper Don" John Gotti will

be shot on a budget of about \$75 million this year.

Honig says details would be released April 12 at a news conference in New York, where the project will be filmed.

A person with knowledge of the film who spoke on condition of anonymity because it

hadn't been announced has said it will be produced by Marc Fiore and directed by Nick Cassavetes.

The famous mobster died in prison in 2002. His son, 47-year-old John "Junior" Gotti, sold film rights to Fiore last year for an undisclosed amount.

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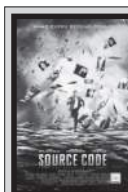
NOW SHOWING



Hop
 Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
James Marsden, Russell Brand
 Children's/Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The comic tale of Fred (James Marsden), an out-of-work slacker who accidentally injures the Easter Bunny (voiced by Russell Brand) and must take him in as he recovers. As Fred struggles with the world's worst houseguest, both will learn what it takes to finally grow up.



Source Code
 Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Monaghan
 Science fiction, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

When decorated soldier Captain Colter Stevens (Jake Gyllenhaal) wakes up in the body of an unknown man, he discovers he's part of a mission to find the bomber of a Chicago commuter train. In an assignment unlike any he's ever known, he learns he's part of a government experiment called the "Source Code," a program that enables him to cross over into another man's identity in the last 8 minutes of his life.



Sucker Punch
 Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Emily Browning, Abbie Cornish
 Action, Fantasy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Zack Snyder presents a hyper-violent spin on Alice in Wonderland for his directorial follow-up to Watchmen with this Cruel and Unusual Films production for Warner Bros. The plot details the action-packed fantasy world of a mental patient (Emily Browning), who escapes from her reality to deal with her abusive stepfather.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
 Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
 Children's, Family • Rated PG



Limitless
 Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro
 Thriller, Science Fiction • Rated PG 13



Battle: Los Angeles
 Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez
 Science Fiction • Rated PG 13



Red Riding Hood
 Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Amanda Seyfried, Gary Oldman
 Horror • Rated PG 13

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Academics to dissect Bob Dylan at NY conference

NEW YORK (AP)—More than three decades have passed since Bob Dylan brought the plight of boxer Rubin “Hurricane” Carter into the public consciousness: “Criminals in their coats and their ties are free to drink martinis and watch the sun rise while Rubin sits like Buddha in a 10-foot cell, an innocent man in a living hell.”

Dylan championed the case of Carter, a former middleweight boxer convicted twice of a 1966 triple murder. And in the end, Carter was freed after 19 years in prison; a federal judge found that the conviction was tainted by racial bias and that Carter and his co-defendant were denied their civil rights.

Now, academics from around the country will examine the implications of that song and others during “Bob Dylan and the Law,” a conference presented by Fordham University’s law and ethics center and Touro Law School.

“We basically said to people who write and think about the law and who also happen to like Dylan’s music, ‘find a way to put them together; tell us how Dylan relates to your academic work or your thinking,’” said Fordham professor Bruce Green, one of the organizers.

An academic session on Tuesday follows a Monday night public panel discussion at Fordham in Manhattan.

“We think it’s important once in a while to have fun, and to free the scholarly imagination,” Green said. “Good scholarship and good teaching require it. ... It’s a lens through which to look at the relationship between law, society



In this Dec. 8, 1975 file photo, Bob Dylan performs before a sold-out crowd in New York’s Madison Square Garden, during a benefit concert for former Boxer Rubin Hurricane” Carter.

and culture. We hope it leads some scholars to think things they haven’t thought before.”

Green has been a Dylan fan since high school. “My parents couldn’t stand it—they liked Frank Sinatra. They thought Dylan was just whining, and that listening to him was a waste of time,” he wryly noted. “Now I am

vindicated. I can say that, all along, I was setting the stage for future scholarship.”

Another conversation topic at the conference will be “The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll.”

In 1963, tobacco farmer William D. Zantinger was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to six months in jail plus a \$500 fine for killing Hattie Carroll, a barmaid at a society charity dance.

Zantinger “killed poor Hattie Carroll with a cane that he twirled around his diamond ring finger at a Baltimore hotel society gath’rin’ ...,” sings Dylan. “In the courtroom of honor, the judge pounded his gavel to show that all’s equal and that the courts are on the level. And that the strings in the books ain’t pulled and persuaded and that even the nobles get properly handled.”

The conference also offers intellectual counterpoints.

Dylan “wrote some very powerful songs about what happens to folks when the system, and when the law, fail them,” said Richard H. Underwood, a professor at the University of Kentucky College of Law. But while Dylan was inspired by real-life cases, Underwood said, he “was not necessarily concerned with true facts. He took a lot of poetic license.”

“I must say, Dylan never lets the facts get in the way of a good story,” agreed Abbe Smith, a Georgetown Law School professor who’s also an expert on Bruce Springsteen and the law.

Young man wanders adrift in sea of confused emotions

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I’m a 21-year-old male who feels lost and unfulfilled, and it’s because I don’t know what I want or deserve. I am one of three adopted children. I was the child who always needed the family support system the most. I come from a not-so-happy family, one with all its priorities centered around money. (Or, more accurately, lack of money.) I never felt the love a child should feel from his family.

My problem these days is my alcohol intake. I can’t stay away from beer. I drink to forget my family problems and the fact that I can’t seem to get anything right.

I dropped out of college because I don’t have a passion for anything or anyone. I used to have hobbies—like writing, photography, etc.—but the beer has taken away my motivation and creativity.

I feel I’m losing my will to keep trying. I want so badly to keep trying, but my emotions are keeping me down. I just want something new, something I can give my all to, something that won’t hurt me in the future.

WHAT CAN I DO?

DEAR WHAT CAN I DO?: I’m glad you wrote, because I know of a group that may be able to give you the emotional support you need to get back on track and regain control of your life. It’s **Emotions Anonymous**. Founded in 1971, it has 850 chapters worldwide and 450 in the United States. It is a 12-step program for people experiencing emotional difficulties. In these groups, members help each other by sharing experiences, strengths and hopes in order to improve their emotional health. It also offers books and literature to new and existing groups. The email address is [eainfo\(at\)emotionsanonymous.org](mailto:eainfo(at)emotionsanonymous.org) and its website is www.emotionsanonymous.org.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Back in second grade I was friends with “Jessica.” A girl named “Kristy” started at my school, and I became friends with her, too. She didn’t want me to be friendly with Jessica, and before long I began to pick on Jessica with Kristy. It reached the point where Kristy and two other girls wrote some mean things about Jessica on the blacktop. I didn’t write anything, but I got in trouble, too. I knew I’d made a mistake and hurt her, and I felt bad about it.

A year or so later I apologized for what I had done. Jessica said it was OK, but I continued feeling guilty over the years for having teased her and not resisting peer pressure. When I was in high school, I sent her a message online and apologized again. Although she said again it was OK, I feel she still holds some resentment, and I don’t blame her.

We’re both adults now, and I see her when I shop at the store up the road from my house. Each time I’m in the checkout line she’s working in, I get a cold attitude. I have told her I was wrong and have tried to make it up to her. Do I leave it alone or keep trying to reach out to her?

HEAVY HEART IN MAINE

DEAR HEAVY HEART: Find some other way to expiate your guilt. Jessica has told you twice that you’re forgiven. Leave her alone because for you to keep bringing up what had to have been a painful (although closed) chapter in her life at this point is creepy. If you can’t do that, then please, shop someplace else or stand in a different checkout line.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When one person owes another person an apology, does it count as a legitimate apology if the word “but” is tacked on at the end? I think adding “but” takes away from the admission of fault and places the blame back on the person owed the apology. Am I right?

WAITING FOR AN APOLOGY

DEAR WAITING: Yes, you are. When someone adds “but” at the end of an apology, he or she is trying to justify whatever the offense was. And that’s not a true apology.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Calif. event for Gandhi book canceled

NEW YORK (AP)—An educational organization has canceled an event planned for a Mahatma Gandhi biography that was banned in part of India after reviews hinted the father of the nation’s independence had a homosexual relationship. The event, in honor of Pulitzer Prize-winner Joseph Lelyveld’s “Great Soul,” was to have been hosted April 13 in Santa Clara, Calif., by the Foundation for Excellence, a nonprofit that provides scholarships for students in India.

“We didn’t want to be involved with any controversy because that is not the purpose of our organization—we are not a literary society

that encourages debate and discussion on different authors and their books,” foundation spokesman Abhu Shukla told The Associated Press on Friday. “So, it is correct that we canceled because of the controversy.”

Although not out yet in India, “Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and His Struggle With India” has been banned by a western state there after reviews suggested Gandhi had a homosexual relationship with a German named Hermann Kallenbach. More bans have been proposed in India, where homosexuality was illegal until 2009 and still carries social stigma.

The book, which as of Friday afternoon ranked No. 80 on Amazon.com’s best-seller list, was published this week in the United States by Alfred A. Knopf, whose spokesman Paul Bogaards said he knew of no problems for events scheduled in New York, Los Angeles, Boston and other cities.

The author has said the book, about Gandhi’s struggle for social justice and the evolution of his social values, is being misinterpreted. He told the AP earlier in the week his work doesn’t allege Gandhi was gay or bisexual but that “he was celibate and deeply attached to Kallenbach.

This is not news.”

In a statement Friday, Bogaards called the foundation’s decision to cancel the book event “shameful” and “one that reeks of censorship.”

“Their decision to cancel is based on misinformation, not facts,” Bogaards said. “Mr. Lelyveld is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and it is the foundation’s great loss that their members will be denied an opportunity to hear him.”

Lelyveld, a former executive editor of The New York Times, won a general nonfiction Pulitzer for “Move Your Shadow: South Africa, Black and White” in 1986.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By **CINDY ELAVSKY**
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Q: I am going stir crazy waiting for the new (and final) season of “Friday Night Lights” to begin on NBC. I’ve been doing my best to avoid spoilers, since the season already finished airing on DirecTV earlier this year.—Paul G. via e-mail

A: It won’t be too much longer now, Paul. “Friday Night Lights” returns to NBC on Friday, April 15, for its fifth and final season, which consists of 13 episodes. However, if you really can’t wait to see how the series ends, the DVD of Season 5 will be released on April 5.

■ ■ ■

Q: On “CSI: NY,” what is the name of and who sings the title song at the beginning of the show? Can I get it on CD?—Madeline J., Gaines, Mich.

A: “CSI: NY” uses “Baba O’Riley” by The Who as its opening theme music. As you might already know, the original “CSI” uses The Who’s “Who Are You,” and “CSI: Miami” uses “Won’t Get Fooled Again,” again by The Who. If you are detecting a theme here, you are absolutely correct. All three songs are remixes of the original

Who songs, and can be found on the official “CSI” soundtrack for each show. If you want all the theme songs, you can buy each show’s soundtrack, or you can purchase individual songs from amazon.com or iTunes.

■ ■ ■

Q: The other day, I watched Heather Locklear’s new movie on Lifetime, “He Loves Me.” While I love seeing Heather in these thriller-type movies, I miss seeing her in comedies. Any chance she’ll be doing any of those anytime soon? -- Kellie M., via e-mail

A: I spoke with Heather recently and asked her just that, telling her that my favorite thing I have ever seen her on would have to be when she hosted “Saturday Night Live” back in the ‘90s. She was thrilled that I singled out that performance, telling me: “‘Saturday Night Live’ was my most favorite thing I’ve done where you could see that I’m



Heather Locklear

funny. I had such a good time doing it. And that ‘Melrose Place’ skit we did was so perfectly perfect. ‘I am an important advertising executive!’” When I asked about her future comedic plans, Heather didn’t want to give too much away, responding: “I don’t know, but I do have a meeting for something soon, and it’s funny, so we’ll see!”

■ ■ ■

Q: Why is Julie Banderas no longer hosting the “Fox Report”?—Becky S., Clarksville, Tenn.

A: After returning from maternity leave, Julie was reassigned to reporter duties for the New York bureau of Fox News. The workdays are longer than when she was host for the “Fox Report,” but she gets to report on a broader range of topics, and can be seen on the news channel several times throughout the day (including doing reports for the “Fox Report” on occasion).

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com. For more news and extended interviews, visit www.celebrityextraonline.com and twitter.com/Celebrity_Extra.

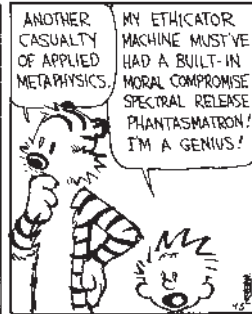
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

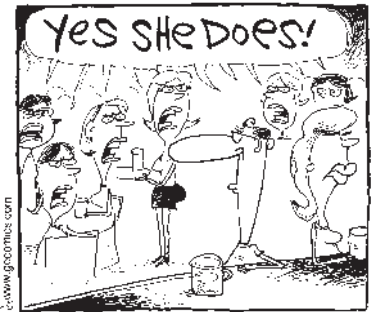
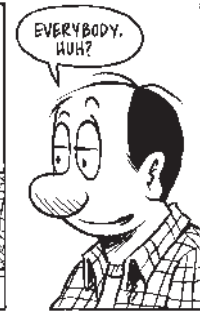


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

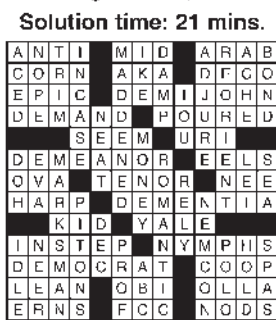
By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Imp the way it was
- 5 Awful
- 8 Decline, with "on"
- 12 Old Italian money
- 13 Id counterpart
- 14 Sheltered
- 15 Addict
- 16 Limit
- 18 Alter the presentation
- 20 Tract of wasteland
- 21 Donkey
- 22 Card player's call
- 23 Reek
- 26 Turn over a new leaf
- 30 Charged bit
- 31 See 54-Across
- 32 Pair
- 33 Fix the locks?
- 36 Rash
- 38 U.K. reference bk.
- 39 Namely (Abbr.)
- 40 Plant swelling
- DOWN**
- 43 Put back
- 47 Check
- 49 Always
- 50 Choral voice
- 51 Wildebeest
- 52 Supermarket stack
- 53 Thailand, once
- 54 With 31-Across, supplement
- 55 Coin aperture
- 4 Plaid fabric
- 5 Ice mounds
- 6 Pulitzer winner
- 7 Two, in Tijuana
- 8 Mom or dad
- 9 Others (Lat.)
- 10 Denomination
- 11 Brother of Cain and Abel
- 17 Anything but
- 19 Request
- 22 Obtain
- 23 Round
- 24 Pirouette pivot
- 25 The chosen
- 26 Regret
- 27 Billboards
- 28 Trench
- 29 "Story 3"
- 31 Anti-quoted
- 34 War dance
- 35 2001, e.g.
- 36 Owned by that guy
- 37 Montezuma's people
- 39 Where the action is
- 40 Historic periods
- 41 Sandwich shop
- 42 "Cómo —usted?"
- 43 Skaters' 39-Down
- 44 Elliptical
- 45 Nevada city
- 46 Formerly, formerly
- 48 Candle count



Yesterday's answer 4-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mitch Pileggi, 59; Agnetha Faltskog, 61; Colin Powell, 74; Roger Corman, 85

Happy Birthday: Concentrating on what's important will make all the difference this year. It will be too easy to fall into someone else's melodrama or to create one of your own if you don't keep busy. Utilize your skills fully and strive for advancement. Take care of any pressing legal, contractual or financial matters before they lead to added pressure. Your numbers are 11, 16, 21, 23, 31, 39, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Uncertainty regarding partnerships will cause friction. Don't be afraid to reveal what's bothering you or what you feel must be resolved before you offer your services. Overreacting will work against you. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put more emphasis on the way you express yourself. You will have to make a calculated decision based on your intuition, not on what you are told. Step back and choose what changes must be made to move forward. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't feel pressured by what others do or say. You have time to examine any challenge or proposal that comes your way without making a commitment. Take control and you will not fall victim to someone's pushy attitude. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep everything as simple as possible. Don't let anyone complicate matters by asking too much of you or putting you on the spot. Any

partnership you are in must be equal. Otherwise, consider moving on or going it alone. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may not see what's going on around you too clearly. Don't let your emotions take over, causing a problem professionally. It's what you accomplish that will count. Taking a positive approach will bring the results you are hoping for. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will learn through your experiences. Don't be afraid to push someone in order to move forward with your own plans. A change at home will help you improve your personal relationships. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Buy or sell items that will grow in value or bring you a profit. You need to be money smart if you want to pursue your goals. A partnership may be holding you back. Focus on your happiness and following your own dream. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will make a worthwhile connection with someone you meet while networking. Your genuine appreciation of what others can do will help break the ice. Your willingness to freely discuss your plans and vision for the future will bring a favorable response. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Deal with reoccurring problems once and for all. Once you make your position clear, you can move forward with ease. One of your peers may give you a hard time. Question his or her motives. Form your business plan and stick to it. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't listen to negativity or complaints that have nothing to do with you. Put your effort into home, family and the people who have always supported your efforts and ideas. Take better care of your emotional and physical well-being. *****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rely on what and who you know well and you can work your way around someone trying to play emotional games with you. An opportunity to make a career move or turn a skill into a profitable commodity should be foremost on your mind. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get together with old friends. New opportunities will develop but you have to be prepared to act fast. Use your innovative ideas to spark enthusiasm in what you are doing. Use past ideas and ask acquaintances for help. ****

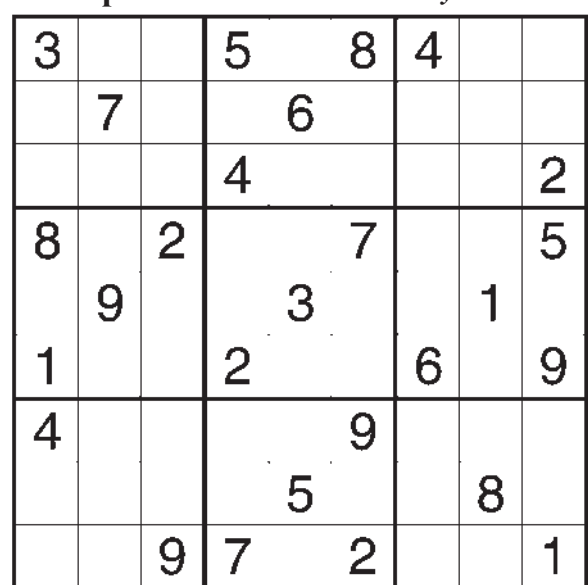
Birthday Baby: You are outgoing and charismatic. You follow your own path and are quick to react, and stubborn when you don't get your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

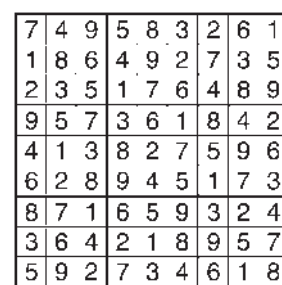


Difficulty Level ★★

4/65

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

2/6

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ELEVATORS AND ESCALATORS

Solution: 6 letters

M T S F F P T N S E B A C S
E K I L I R O R T D T S L T
C E C S E I E S A R R P N E
H V T A N T H I O N A A E P
A O D I R A O P G C S V W R S
N M P I F S R H E H I P E P S
I I A T E I N T E R T W O L U
C T A S A U R R D N O M P R R
S R O H M A O D E P I S E P T
G L O B C Y C E O N W H N A C
C U E T E M W A E O M O C R L
D R I V O T A S A R A I O A I
S O N D E M O R L R R S S D M
N O W B E L A L C O Y T A O B
C H A N D R A I L O W E R X S

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4/5

Airport, Arrows, Between, Boat, Cables, Carry, Chain, Climbs, Closes, Conveyor, Cram, Doors, Down, Driven, Freight, Guide, Handrail, Hoist, Hotels, Levels, Lift, Lower, Machine, Mail, Mechanic, Mines, Motor, Move, Numbers, Open, Paradox, Pinion, Piston, Power, Rack, Shaft, Slow, Space, Stair, Steps, Traction, Transit, Transport, Travel, Tread, Truss, Upward

Yesterday's Answer: Increases

The New Treasury 500 is a new word game that challenges you to find 500 words in a 15x15 grid. It's a great way to test your vocabulary and spelling skills. For more information, visit www.newtreasury500.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Mickelson wins Masters tuneup in Houston



HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—Phil Mickelson feels pretty confident about his game heading into the Masters.

The defending champion at Augusta outdueled Scott Verplank on Sunday to win the Houston Open by three shots, his first victory since earning his third green jacket last April.

And it comes with a notable distinction.

The win moved Mickelson's world ranking to No. 3, while Tiger Woods dropped to No. 7. It's the first time Mickelson has been ahead of Woods in the ranking since the week before Woods won the 1997 Masters for his first major championship.

"It feels really good for me to have played well and gained some momentum heading into next week," Mickelson said. "I needed to have a week where I kind of put it together."

The 40-year-old Mickelson shot a 7-under 65, the lowest closing score by a winner this year, to finish at 20 under.

He was 16 under over his final 36 holes, after tying the course record with a 63 on Saturday, his lowest round in two years. He won for the fifth straight time when he's shot 64 or better in at least one of the rounds.

"I've been saying all year, 'I'm playing well, but I'm not getting the scores out of it, and I'm just kind of having a lapse of focus,'" he said. "It was a great week in that regard, and great for getting momentum heading in next week."

Tour rookie and second-round leader Chris Kirk (67) tied Verplank (68) at 17 under.

Lefty is hoping he can repeat some history at Augusta this week. The 39-

time tour winner is the last player to win the week prior to a Masters victory, capturing the BellSouth Classic in 2006 before earning his second green jacket. The Houston Open became the run-up event to Augusta in 2007.

While many top players, including Woods and world No. 1 Martin Kaymer sat out this week, Mickelson saw no disadvantage in coming here and trying to win. Anthony Kim won last year and finished third at the Masters.

"I think it's nothing but a plus to be able to gain some momentum," Mickelson said. "especially given that I haven't had the results and the scores that I wanted earlier in the year. It gives me a little bit of momentum."

Verplank, meanwhile, needed a victory just to get to Augusta. The 46-year-old Verplank, with his sore left wrist wrapped in black tape, would've become the fifth-oldest champion in the last five years.

His wrist is weakened by a degenerative bone condition, and it affected his grip Sunday. He was making only his fourth start this year.

"It's nice that I hadn't forgotten how to play," he said. "If you're hurt, you don't have a ton of confidence in your body. It's hard to have confidence in anything."

Verplank earned \$519,200 for finishing second, and moved into 14th on the career money list (\$26.741 million), passing Retief Goosen and Stuart Appleby. He plans to play in San Antonio in two weeks and at Hilton Head in three.

"That would be ideal," he said, "but I mean, this is the first time I've played two weeks in a row. I hope that I can be ready to play in another week."

By the time Mickelson and Verplank teed off Sunday, the wind was blowing as hard as it had all weekend.

Mickelson ignited a roar from the



Phil Mickelson holds the championship trophy after winning the Houston Open PGA Tour golf tournament on Sunday, April 3, 2011, in Humble, Texas. Mickelson won the tournament with a 20-under par 268.

huge gallery on No. 1, chipping in from behind the green for birdie. He hit errant drives on Nos. 2 and 3, then birdied the

par-3 seventh to start his charge.

Verplank kept pace for a while, with birdies on Nos. 8, 10, 12 and 13.

"I was birdieing every other hole," Verplank said, "and I couldn't pull away from the guy."

Lefty tried to use his length advantage over Verplank on the 319-yard 12th, driving onto the front of the green, 66 feet away. He two-putted from there for his fourth straight birdie and his 16th in 30 holes.

They both birdied the par-5 13th, but Verplank three-putted on No. 14, leaving Mickelson alone at the top. Mickelson three-putted the par-5 15th, but then widened the gap for good on the 16th green.

"All in all," Mickelson said, "this was one of the best weeks I've had in a long time, as far as seeing the shot and being able to hit it."

The victory came with an emotional tug for Mickelson. Dr. Tom Buchholz, a radiation oncologist at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, has been treating Mickelson's wife, Amy, and mother, Mary, who were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009.

Buchholz and about 30 members of his staff were in the gallery all weekend, and Mickelson gave Buchholz the flag from the 18th hole after his round.

"Houston has become a special place for Phil and Amy," Buchholz said. "They're two fantastic individuals, and it's truly been a privilege to have become part of their lives. Tremendously meaningful to me, to be part of this story."

Mickelson said Amy and his mother "are doing so much better. We're in a much better place."

And with that, he turned his focus toward Augusta.

"I've got a big event next week and it's time," he said. "As much as I loved winning here and I'll look back on this in seven, eight days, this being a very special day. Right now, you know, I've got some work to do."

The Unlikelysts: Butler and UConn play for it all

HOUSTON (AP)—Butler coach Brad Stevens loves an underdog, whether it's his team back in the Final Four or Connecticut making an unprecedented five-games-in-five-nights run through the Big East tournament.

Wait, what?

A Big East team as an underdog? The coach at tiny Butler cheering for big, bad UConn?

Welcome to the bizarro world of college basketball in 2011—a sport where not only is anything possible, but where nothing quite makes sense. A sport in which the story of a small school from a small conference making a run to a title is no more rare than that of the late-season magic conjured by a power program with one of the nation's best players.

Butler and Connecticut will meet Monday in the national title game—the eighth-seeded Bulldogs trying to finish the deal after coming oh-so-close last season and the third-seeded Huskies (31-9), led by Kemba Walker, talking about shocking the world with their 11th straight victory after a regular season that foreshadowed none of this.

"We were all rooting for UConn because it was a great story," Stevens said, "a lot of fun to follow."

As is Butler, the team from a 4,500-

student campus in Indianapolis that practices at Hinkle Fieldhouse, used as the backdrop for the classic movie "Hoosiers"—the based-on-reality melodrama in which tiny Hickory High stares down the biggest schools in Indiana and wins the state championship. On its second try.

What seemed impossible in that movie is becoming more the norm, at least in the college game. Last season, Butler (28-9) came one desperation heave from toppling Duke to become the first true mid-major to win the championship. This season, Butler wasn't even the biggest longshot at the Final Four. That was VCU, an 11th seed that fell to the Bulldogs in Saturday's semifinal.

As recently as 2008, the NCAA tournament landed all four No. 1 seeds in the Final Four. This year, there wasn't a single 1 or 2 for the first time in the 33-year history of seeding.

UConn coach Jim Calhoun said this has been the natural progression since the NCAA started limiting scholarships and new NBA rules triggered a flood of players who would come to college for one year, then declare for the draft.

"It's as close to parity as there can be," Calhoun said. "It certainly can

occur in a tournament a lot more than it could playing a Saturday night, then Big Monday. It's just the nature of things. ... The one-and-done thing, walking the tightrope is a hard thing, a very difficult thing."

If anyone can say they've mastered it this season, it's UConn. Led by Walker, the junior guard on the verge of becoming the best player to ever put on a Huskies uniform, Connecticut won five games in five nights against Big East competition to win the postseason tournament.

A remarkable accomplishment in any conference, but especially the Big East—the 16-team behemoth that placed a record 11 teams in the tournament this year. Maybe because of the grueling nature of its regular season, the Big East wore down and had a terrible showing, only moving two teams into the second weekend.

But Connecticut is still standing, a testament to Walker's playmaking ability (he's averaging 25.5 points during this 10-game winning streak) and Calhoun's ability to adjust on the fly to the fatigue that has predictably set in.

"Our code has been very simple: 'The hell with it, let's just go play basketball,'" Calhoun said. "Well, we wouldn't be doing all the things

we did last night defensively to Kentucky if we just kind of rolled the thing out there. We worked very hard on it. But we worked on it in a different way."

Connecticut advanced to the final by holding the Wildcats to 33.9 percent shooting in a 56-55 victory Saturday night.

Butler, meanwhile, only needed two wins in four nights to capture the tournament title in the less-heralded Horizon League. Still, the Bulldogs are on a 14-game winning streak that began after losing their third straight back on Feb. 3. At that point, this was a team that had no guarantees it would even make the NCAA field. It looked nothing like the one that captured hearts as it made its run through last year's tournament.

In the final last April, Butler trailed Duke 61-59 with 3.6 seconds left when Gordon Hayward (now playing for Utah in the NBA) grabbed the rebound off an intentionally missed free throw, dribbled four times to the halfcourt line and launched a shot at the buzzer. It hit the backboard, the inside of the rim and bounced out. It could have been the greatest finish ever in sports. It wound up as something less, though Stevens insists he walked away that night feeling like

a winner.

"Our guys played as well as they could have," Stevens said. "They represented themselves in an unbelievable manner throughout that whole game. That might be the reason why we had parades, too, even though we lost. It was remarkable the way people treated us even though we lost."

One win away from the pinnacle once again, the Bulldogs are talking about finishing the deal this time. They haven't turned their backs on the heart-tugging story lines that help define them, but they don't fall back on them, either.

"There are some connections to us and 'Hoosiers.' I understand that, and that's nice if people want to make those connections," senior forward Matt Howard said.

Calhoun, trying to become only the fifth coach to win three NCAA titles, says he appreciates Butler as much as the next guy. He sees the slow, steady improvement of mid-majors such as Butler and figures there will be more tournaments like this one and more nights like Monday—where the small school and the big school are on even footing.

Maybe one of those days, the little guy will win it all.

"I think it's good for college basketball," Calhoun said. "I think if it starts around 2012, 2013, it would be a wonderful thing."



Spurs end losing streak by beating Suns



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—George Hill scored 29 points as the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs beat the Phoenix Suns 114-97 on Sunday to stop a six-game losing streak—the longest of Tim Duncan's 14-year career with the team.

San Antonio went winless for two weeks and squandered a once-comfortable lead for the top seed in the Western Conference. The win moves the Spurs 2 1/2 games ahead of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Nuggets 95, Lakers 90

In Los Angeles, Italy's Danilo Gallinari scored 22 points and Kenyon Martin added 18 as Denver hung on to defeat the Lakers for their sixth straight win.

Kobe Bryant scored 28 points for the Lakers, whose nine-game winning streak ended.

The Lakers have six games left to try and overtake the Spurs and earn home-court advantage throughout the playoffs. They also need five more wins to reach 60 for the 12th time and third under coach Phil Jackson.

Knicks 123, Cavaliers 107

In New York, Amare Stoudemire scored 28 points to lead New York to its first postseason berth since 2004.

Shortly after Charlotte's home loss to Washington, the Knicks beat the Cavaliers to secure their spot. They are seventh in the Eastern Conference, but closed to within 1 1/2 games of the 76ers.

Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points and Chauncey Billups added 23 for the Knicks, who had lost 11 straight to the Cavaliers dating to December 2007.

J.J. Hickson had 23 points and Baron Davis added 22 for Cleveland.

Celtics 101, Pistons 90

In Boston, Kevin Garnett scored 23 points and Paul Pierce added 22 as Boston topped Detroit in Shaquille

O'Neal's brief return to the Celtics lineup.

O'Neal played only 5 1/2 minutes in his first game back after missing 27 with a sore right leg. He left the game at the beginning of the second quarter with a new injury—a strained right calf muscle.

Will Bynum scored 20 points, Tayshaun Prince had 16 and Charlie Villanueva 15 for Detroit.

Heat 108, Nets 94

In Newark, New Jersey, LeBron James had 31 points and 11 rebounds as Miami won its third straight and eighth in nine games.

Dwyane Wade added 18 points despite a first-quarter thigh injury and Chris Bosh had 16 for the Heat.

The win pulled Miami (54-23) within 2 1/2 games of idle Chicago (56-20) in the race for the top spot in the Eastern Conference. The Heat have five games left, one fewer than the Bulls.

Deron Williams had 18 points and 12 assists to lead the Nets, who have lost six straight and 10 of 11.

Raptors 102, Magic 98

At Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points and Jerryd Bayless had 21 to help Toronto end a six-game losing streak.

Leandro Barbosa added 14 points for the Raptors, James Johnson and Sonny Weems each had 11, and Reggie Evans finished with 17 rebounds.

Dwight Howard had 31 points and nine rebounds and Jameer Nelson scored 21 points for the Magic, who have lost three of four. Brandon Bass and Jason Richardson each scored 13 points and Hedo Turkoglu had 11.

Wizards 97, Bobcats 91

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Andray Blatche had 25 points and 17 rebounds as Washington won its second straight game on the road after a dismal season.



San Antonio Spurs guard George Hill is fouled by Phoenix Suns guard Jared Dudley on a shot during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Antonio, Sunday, April 3, 2011.

After a 1-35 start away from home that threatened to match an NBA record for futility, the Wizards followed a victory at Utah last week by beating Charlotte and putting a dent in the Bobcats' postseason hopes.

Matt Carroll scored 17 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter for the Bobcats, who are now two games behind Indiana for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Kings 106, Jazz 97

In Sacramento, California, Tyreke Evans had 24 points and 10 assists to help Sacramento end a two-game losing streak.

Rookie DeMarcus Cousins added 17 points, nine rebounds, six assists and five steals for the Kings. Francisco Garcia had 17 points and Marcus Thornton scored 15.

Paul Millsap scored 21 points for the

Jazz, who dropped their sixth straight game—Utah's longest slide since a nine-game losing streak in 2005. Kyle Weaver had a career-high 19 points, and rookie Gordon Hayward also scored 19.

Rockets 114, Hawks 109

In Houston, Kevin Martin scored 35 points and Luis Scola added 12 of his 15 in the second half to lead Houston past Atlanta for its seventh straight home win.

The Rockets stayed three games behind Memphis and New Orleans in the race for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Houston has won eight of its last 10, but has only five games remaining.

Joe Johnson had 25 points to lead the Hawks, who had won four straight.

Hornets 108, Pacers 96

In New Orleans, Trevor Ariza scored 19 points and Chris Paul shook off a minor knee injury with 18 points and eight assists to lead New Orleans over Indiana.

Emeka Okafor finished with 14 points and 17 rebounds and Carl Landry added 18 points for the Hornets.

Paul hobbled off the court with a left knee injury in the second quarter, but returned less than three minutes later.

Danny Granger and Mike Dunleavy each scored 15 points for Indiana, which had won three straight.

Trail Blazers 104, Mavericks 96

In Portland, Oregon, Gerald Wallace scored 19 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 to help Portland win its eighth straight at home.

Portland has won seven of its last 10 as it jockey for playoff position in the Western Conference. The Blazers sit in sixth place, a game in front of Memphis and New Orleans with five to go.

Shawn Marion had 19 points for Dallas, which has lost three straight.



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Ryan Howard homered and drove in four runs to help the Philadelphia Phillies complete a season-opening, three-game sweep with a 7-3 win over the Houston Astros on Sunday.

Roy Oswalt (1-0), who spent 10 years with the Astros before being traded to Philadelphia last year, allowed two runs on five hits while striking out six and walking one in his first start against his former club.

Cardinals 2, Padres 0

In St. Louis, Jaime Garcia threw a four-hitter with a career-best nine strikeouts as St. Louis beat San Diego to avoid a season-opening sweep at home.

Yadier Molina's RBI single off Dustin Moseley (0-1) in the fifth inning was the difference for the Cardinals, who haven't been swept by the Padres at home since 1980.

Dodgers 7, Giants 5

At Los Angeles, Marcus Thames tripled in the go-ahead run during a four-run seventh inning as the Dodgers took three of four from the defending World Series champions.

The Dodgers scored all four runs off Giants reliever Dan Runzler (0-1).

Reds 12, Brewers 3

In Cincinnati, Ryan Hanigan hit two of Cincinnati's four homers as the Reds

Howard leads Phillies past Astros, 7-3

completed a sweep of Milwaukee.

Jonny Gomes and Brandon Phillips also homered for Cincinnati, which is 3-0 for the first time since 2005.

Bronson Arroyo (1-0) went seven innings even though he's still recovering from mononucleosis, giving up solo homers to Rickie Weeks and Ryan Braun.

Mets 9, Marlins 2

At Miami, Willie Harris and Ike Davis homered as New York beat Florida to win the series two games to one.

R.A. Dickey (1-0) allowed an unearned run and five hits, struck out seven and walked three.

Braves 11, Nationals 2

In Washington, Tim Hudson pitched seven solid innings in another strong start against Washington and Brian McCann had four RBIs for Atlanta.

Hudson (1-0) gave up one run and three hits, struck out five and walked one. He didn't allow a baserunner after Danny Espinosa singled to lead off the second, getting 18 consecutive outs.

Hudson improved to 11-2 with a 1.88 ERA against the Nationals franchise.

Pirates 5, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Pedro Alvarez drove in

two runs with an infield single in the ninth inning as Pittsburgh rallied past Chicago to take two of three in the series.

The Pirates won only four road series last season, but two of them were at Chicago's Wrigley Field.

Jeff Karstens (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth and Joel Hanrahan the ninth for his second save.

Indians 7, White Sox 1

In Cleveland, Orlando Cabrera hit a two-run homer and assisted in the majors' first triple play of the season to help the Cleveland Indians beat the Chicago White Sox.

Cabrera connected in the sixth inning off John Danks (0-1), putting Cleveland ahead 2-1.

The Indians got their first triple play in three years in the fourth. First baseman Carlos Santana made a diving catch on Alexei Ramirez's bunt, then threw the ball to Orlando Cabrera, who had moved from second base to first to get the out on A.J. Pierzynski. Cabrera then threw to shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera at second base for the putout on Carlos Quentin.

Rangers 5, Red Sox 1

In Arlington, Texas, Ian Kinsler and Nelson Cruz became the first set of

teammates to homer in each of the first three games in a season as Texas swept its season-opening series with Boston.

David Murphy and Mike Napoli also homered as Texas' first three hits—and four of five—were solo shots.

The reigning American League champion Rangers hit 11 home runs and outscored the Red Sox 26-11 in the series.

Twins 4, Blue Jays 3

At Toronto, Danny Valencia and Denard Span each homered to help Minnesota avoid a three-game sweep.

Jose Bautista hit his second homer of the season but it wasn't enough for the Blue Jays, who left the bases loaded in the ninth when Adam Lind grounded out against closer Joe Nathan.

Orioles 5, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Zach Britton pitched six strong innings in his major league debut and J.J. Hardy hit a two-run double to lead Baltimore to the three-game sweep.

Britton (1-0) allowed one run and three hits, struck out six and walked three.

Mark Reynolds hit a tie-breaking RBI double in Baltimore's three-run seventh, then added another RBI double in the ninth.

Tigers 10, Yankees 7

In New York, Miguel Cabrera hit a pair of two-run homers and Brennan Boesch had a two-run shot and four RBIs as Detroit earned its first win of the season.

Boesch matched a career high with four hits as the Tigers rebounded from a 10-6 loss Saturday without No. 3 hitter Magglio Ordonez, who sat out with a sore ankle.

Royals 12, Angels 9, 13 innings

In Kansas City, Missouri, Matt Treanor hit a three-run homer with two outs in the 13th inning to lift Kansas City to its third straight victory in its last at-bat.

Kansas City hit three home runs in the game and Los Angeles had five, including two by Howie Kendrick.

The Royals took three of four in the series, winning the final three games in dramatic fashion in the final innings of the game.

Athletics 7, Mariners 1

At Oakland, California, Mark Ellis drove in three runs as Oakland avoided a season-opening weekend sweep.

Hideki Matsui doubled in the second for his first hit with the A's after an 0-for-7 start. He then added an RBI single in a four-run seventh, giving the slugger a combined 2,500 hits between his career in Japan and the major leagues.

Little League meeting reset to April 15



Saipan Little League Baseball Association acting president Claudia Leon-Guerrero has re-scheduled its general membership meeting for April 15, 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The meeting was supposed to take

place Sunday, but was moved after the bad weather over the weekend. Topics to be discussed include team entrance fees, team documents, league financial report, and other miscellaneous matters. All active members are encouraged to attend. SLLBA is also expected to tackle

the rescheduling of cancelled games on weekdays. A separate meeting for managers is scheduled ahead of the general membership forum. The managers meeting will take place today, also at the conference room. *(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)*

KOREANS

From Page 28

other tight game, eking out a 23-21 victory in the second set.

The women’s B doubles finale will be played this weekend.

In other results, the women’s A and C doubles semis casts were completed after last weekend’s games.

Making it to the women’s A doubles semis were the pairs of Marlene Peraja and Lani Bartolome, Angie Ito and Gigi Zapanta, Annarose Omori and

Michelle Caleon, and Hannah Choi and Toshiko Obata.

Peraja and Bartolome and Omori and Caleon finished the round-robin play with similar 6-1 records and will be paired against Ito and Zapanta and Obata and Choi in the semifinals, respectively.

In the women’s C doubles, advancing to the Final Four round were the duos of Jen Savellano and Lyka Lanuza, Cecille Obaldo and Hazel Dela Santa, Windy Fernandez and Cris Obaldo, and Wang Meong and Angela Park.

Savellano and Lanuza finished

Group 1 with an unbeaten record and will challenge De La Santa and Cecille Obaldo for the first finals berth this Friday. De La Santa and Cecille Obaldo placed second in Group 2 with their 4-1 slate.

Also recording an undefeated card were Group 2 top finishers Meong and Park and they will go up against Fernandez and Chris Obaldo, who ended up with a 4-1 record in Group 1.

Names of semifinalists and quarterfinalists in the men’s doubles and mixed doubles will be published in *Saipan Tribune’s* Wednesday edition.

MP UNITED

From Page 28

game from Krizzelle Alforeza.

In the second half, MP United continued its scoring spree with Jenn Backhaus drilling twin goals and Andrea Engelhardt and Mel Demapan contributing one apiece.

Paire 4, IFC 2

In the other game on Saturday, Paire Football Club topped Independents FC, 4-2.

After a 1-1 deadlock at the break, Paire found its rhythm in the second half to down IFC.

Connie Camacho and Megan Herber had one goal each for Paire, while the two other goals were credited to players wearing jerseys No. 23 and No. 52. The game results provided to *Saipan Tribune* listed no Paire players wearing uniform Nos. 23 and 52.

Amanda Allen scored both goals for IFC, hitting her first one in the 21st minute and the second in the 66th.

Shirley’s FC 3, Matansa 2

In the lone game on Friday, Shirley’s Football Club edged Matansa, 3-2.

Lia Rangamar scored the winning goal for Shirley’s in the second half.

The game was tied, 2-all, after 45 minutes of play. Twin goals from Rose

Lazaro kept Matansa in the match in the first half. Angie Ito and Lalaine Pagarao had one goal each for Shirley’s in the first half to match Lazaro’s two.

Then in the second half, it was Rangamar’s turn to light up the scoreboard and lift Shirley’s to a close win.

The women’s league will continue its regular season games this weekend. On Friday, Shirley’s will take on IFC, while Saturday’s matches will have Matansa facing MP United and Tan Holdings dueling Paire.

The six-team league has a two-round robin format in the regular season. Format for the playoffs have yet to be announced, but games will be played on May 20 and 21 and 27 and 28.

MGD

From Page 28

MGD jumped ahead early, 25-9, in the opening period of Sunday’s nightcap. Melvin Capalad led the way for MGD with nine points in the first quarter.

Hot Shots chipped away at MGD’s lead, but the latter still maintained a 41-34 lead at the half. Hot Shots’ Gino Libuw delivered nine points in the second quarter rally attempt.

MGD maintained close to a 10-point lead for the majority of the second half and managed a 59-49 lead heading into the final period. MGD’s Jerome Reyes turned in 11 big points in the third quarter.

MGD kept its foot firmly on the gas pedal at crunch time as both teams traded baskets in the fourth quarter. MGD’s Capalad finished with a game-high 20 points, while Hot Shots’ Errol Peredo scored 19 in the loss.

In Sunday’s opener, Cargo Express-Sea Bridge managed a 13-11 lead in

the first 10 minutes of play. Kelvin Fitial carried the torch for Cargo Express with seven markers in the first quarter.

The game remained close in the second period, but Cargo Express still edged out a 28-27 margin at halftime. Fitial finished the quarter strong and added five more points to his total.

The match continued to go back and forth as Cargo Express maintained a slim 48-47 lead heading into the payoff period. Cargo Express’ Jun Itaas came off the bench and pumped in eight markers in the third quarter.

Then in the fourth, Itaas saved some gas in the tank, adding 11 more points in the clutch that helped secure the victory.

Cargo Express’ Lerio Pagarao also turned in 10 points in the fourth quarter and finished with a team-high 20 points to match the output of Armatech’s Elmer Esdrelon.

Miller Lite basketball continues this Friday with bracket A’s Satbahi challenging the Hot Shots at 6pm followed with an 8pm pairing between bracket B’s Soul Jazz and Armatech.

JR. NETTERS

From Page 28

the CNMI to the NPQ event in Guam in June.

The junior championships, which will be played from April 15 to 17 and April 22 to 24, offer higher ranking points than other Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-organized events, so players falling behind the ranking board can still catch up.

“This is the last event of the ranking year 2010-2011, and this tournament is worth 1 1/2 times the number of points

of the other events. Our national junior team that will travel to Guam and compete in the North Pacific Qualifying event will be chosen immediately after the tournament. More spaces could possibly be available if Guam does not fill their allocations. Financial assistance will be made available to those who qualify for the NPQ,” NMITA president and CNMI coach Jeff Race said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

In the current rankings for the boys U18 division, Rafael Jones is on top with 3,500 points, followed by Daniel Park (2,150) and Christian Miller (1,750). Clay McCullough-Stearns has

1,500 and Andy Nutting holds 1,000 for fourth and fifth place, respectively.

Sisters Thea and Theecel Minor have 3,000 ranking points each to lead the girls U18. Amy Arenovski is in second place with 1,600, while Jodel Fernandez (1,350) and Ilia Corella (1,000) occupy the fourth and fifth spots, respectively.

Jake Lee and Miller are in the Top 2 spots in the boys U15 with the former earning 2,250 against the latter’s 2,000. Amami Sakano is in third place with 1,400, followed by Angelo Jones (1,200), and Carl Dela Cruz (1,150).

Mikayla Lopez is way ahead in



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	53	23	.697	—
x-Philadelphia	40	37	.519	13 1/2
x-New York	38	38	.500	15
New Jersey	23	53	.303	30
Toronto	21	55	.276	32

Southeast Division

y-Miami	54	23	.701	—
x-Orlando	48	29	.623	6
x-Atlanta	44	33	.571	10
Charlotte	32	44	.421	21 1/2
Washington	20	56	.263	33 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	56	20	.737	—
Indiana	35	43	.449	22
Milwaukee	31	45	.408	25
Detroit	26	50	.342	30
Cleveland	15	61	.197	41

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	58	19	.753	—
x-Dallas	53	24	.688	5
New Orleans	44	33	.571	14
Memphis	44	33	.571	14
Houston	41	36	.532	17

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	50	26	.658	—
x-Denver	47	29	.618	3
Portland	45	32	.584	5 1/2
Utah	36	41	.468	14 1/2
Minnesota	17	60	.221	33 1/2

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	55	21	.724	—
Phoenix	37	39	.487	18
Golden State	33	44	.429	22 1/2
L.A. Clippers	30	47	.390	25 1/2
Sacramento	22	54	.289	33

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

San Antonio 114, Phoenix 97
Denver 95, L.A. Lakers 90
Sacramento 106, Utah 97
Boston 101, Detroit 90
Washington 97, Charlotte 91
Miami 108, New Jersey 94
New York 123, Cleveland 107
Toronto 102, Orlando 98
Houston 114, Atlanta 109
New Orleans 108, Indiana 96
Portland 104, Dallas 96

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	3	0	1.000	—
New York	2	1	.667	1
Toronto	2	1	.667	1
Boston	0	3	.000	3
Tampa Bay	0	3	.000	3

Central Division

Kansas City	3	1	.750	—
Chicago	2	1	.667	1/2
Cleveland	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Detroit	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Minnesota	1	2	.333	1 1/2

West Division

Texas	3	0	1.000	—
Seattle	2	1	.667	1
Oakland	1	2	.333	2
Los Angeles	1	3	.250	2 1/2

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East Division

Philadelphia	3	0	1.000	—
Atlanta	2	1	.667	1
New York	2	1	.667	1
Florida	1	2	.333	2
Washington	1	2	.333	2

Central Division

Cincinnati	3	0	1.000	—
Pittsburgh	2	1	.667	1
Chicago	1	2	.333	2
St. Louis	1	2	.333	2
Houston	0	3	.000	3
Milwaukee	0	3	.000	3

West Division

Los Angeles	3	1	.750	—
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San Diego	2	1	.667	1/2
Arizona	1	1	.500	1
Colorado	1	1	.500	1
San Francisco	1	3	.250	2

YESTERDAY'S GAMES

Cincinnati 12, Milwaukee 3
N.Y. Mets 9, Florida 2
Atlanta 11, Washington 2
Philadelphia 7, Houston 3
St. Louis 2, San Diego 0
Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 4
Arizona at Colorado, ppd., rain
L.A. Dodgers 7, San Francisco 5
Cleveland 7, Chicago White Sox 1
Detroit 10, N.Y. Yankees 7
Minnesota 4, Toronto 3
Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 1
Texas 5, Boston 1
Kansas City 12, L.A. Angels 9, 13 innings
Oakland 7, Seattle 1

HOUSTON OPEN SCORES

HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—Final scores Sunday at the Houston Open, a \$5.9 million PGA tournament played at the par-72, 7,457-yard Redstone Golf Club, Tournament Course:

FINAL ROUND

Phil Mickelson (500), \$1,062,000	70-70-63-65—268
Chris Kirk (245), \$519,200	66-69-69-67—271
Scott Verplank (245), \$519,200	68-72-67-69—276
Steve Stricker (123), \$259,600	67-72-67-69—275
Aaron Baddeley (123), \$259,600	73-65-66-71—275
Robert Allenby (95), \$205,025	68-72-67-69—276
David Hearn (95), \$205,025	69-70-66-71—276
Greg Chalmers (75), \$159,300	70-73-66-68—277
Matt Kuchar (75), \$159,300	72-70-67-68—277
Brandt Jobe (75), \$159,300	69-72-68-68—277
Padraig Harrington (75), \$159,300	68-69-70-70—277
Hunter Mahan (75), \$159,300	70-71-66-70—277
Chad Campbell (58), \$114,067	71-70-71-66—278
Gary Woodland (58), \$114,067	71-70-69-68—278
Anthony Kim (58), \$114,067	72-64-69-73—278
Louis Oosthuizen (54), \$94,400	72-69-70-68—279
Webb Simpson (54), \$94,400	72-72-66-69—279
Tim Petrovic (54), \$94,400	70-68-71-70—279
Charles Howell III (50), \$71,508	69-75-69-67—280
Nick O'Hern (50), \$71,508	65-74-72-69—280
Josh Teater (50), \$71,508	65-72-73-70—280
David Mathis (50), \$71,508	70-70-70-70—280
J.J. Henry (50), \$71,508	73-70-65-72—280
Charley Hoffman (45), \$47,790	72-68-72-69—281
Ben Crane (45), \$47,790	70-68-73-70—281
Michael Thompson (45), \$47,790	72-69-70-70—281
John Senden (45), \$47,790	72-69-70-70—281
Michael Putnam (45), \$47,790	70-69-69-73—281
Ben Curtis (45), \$47,790	70-70-68-73—281
Lee Westwood (0), \$35,843	68-72-74-68—282
Charl Schwartzel (39), \$35,843	74-67-71-70—282
Tommy Gainey (39), \$35,843	68-73-70-71—282
Jimmy Walker (39), \$35,843	63-74-72-73—282
Nathan Green (39), \$35,843	67-73-69-73—282
Vaughn Taylor (39), \$35,843	68-71-69-74—282
Johnson Wagner (33), \$27,189	69-67-76-71—283
Cameron Beckman (33), \$27,189	69-74-67-73—283
Alex Cejka (33), \$27,189	71-70-69-73—283
Ben Martin (33), \$27,189	73-66-70-74—283
Zack Miller (33), \$27,189	68-74-67-74—283
Nate Smith (33), \$27,189	69-72-66-76—283
Troy Merritt (27), \$20,060	72-71-71-70—284
Michael Bradley (27), \$20,060	71-71-72-70—284
Joseph Bramlett (27), \$20,060	73-68-72-71—284
Bill Lunde (27), \$20,060	68-71-73-72—284
Scott Piercy (27), \$20,060	71-72-69-72—284
J.B. Holmes (27), \$20,060	73-71-67-73—284
Kent Jones (22), \$15,458	72-72-68-73—285
John Rollins (22), \$15,458	67-71-72-75—285
Brian Davis (22), \$15,458	71-72-67-75—285
Brendan Steele (18), \$13,885	67-72-77-70—286
Charlie Wi (18), \$13,885	74-70-71-71—286
Keegan Bradley (18), \$13,885	70-73-71-72—286
Steve Elkington (18), \$13,885	68-71-73-74—286
Ernie Els (18), \$13,885	71-72-69-74—286
Ross Fisher (0), \$13,885	71-70-69-76—286
Kris Blanks (13), \$13,216	69-74-73-71—287
Billy Mayfair (13), \$13,216	69-74-71-73—287
Blake Adams (13), \$13,216	72-72-67-76—287
Boo Weekley (9), \$12,685	72-72-72-72—288
Kyle Stanley (9), \$12,685	70-74-71-73—288
Retief Goosen (9), \$12,685	70-74-71-73—288
Jim Renner (9), \$12,685	71-73-70-74—288
Fred Couples (9), \$12,685	71-72-71-74—288
D.A. Points (9), \$12,685	70-72-71-75—288
Kevin Stadler (2), \$11,918	71-73-72-73—289
Jim Herman (2), \$11,918	73-68-75-73—289
Marc Leishman (2), \$11,918	69-75-71-74—289
Robert Garrigus (2), \$11,918	68-72-75-74—289
Roland Thatcher (2), \$11,918	77-67-69-76—289
Andres Romero (2), \$11,918	73-70-70-76—289
Steve Marino (2), \$11,918	72-70-71-76—289
Francesco Molinari (0), \$11,387	69-71-74-77—291
Cameron Tringale (1), \$11,387	74-70-66-81—291
Fabian Gomez (1), \$11,210	71-72-73-79—295
Made cut, did not finish	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the girls U15 with her 2,750 ranking points. Negahr Rastguiy (1,600) and Melody Johnson (1,500) are in second and third, followed by Adele Hudkins (1,000) and Carol Lee (600).

In the boys U12, Moris Villanueva has the lead with his 3,000 points. Colin Ramsey is not far behind in second place with 2,550. Completing the Top 5 are Michael Ren (1,250), Michael Jones (1,100), Quintin Ramsey (1,000),

and Luther Lizama (1,000).

Carol Lee has the lead in the girls U12 with her 3,000. Joining her in the Top 5 are Emily Jones (2,850), Tammy Ackerman (2,500), Isabel Heras (1,900), and Sakura Imaya (850).

Rankings points were awarded based on how junior players finished in the DFS and Tan Holdings tournaments last year and in the Coconut Classic and PIC competition.

Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Invitational

PHOTOS AND TEXT By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND



The Kagman High School Ayuyus pose for a team photo after winning the Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Invitational boys division last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



The Marianas High School Lady Dolphins display the banner they decorated for the visiting Settsu Red Impulse after conclusion of the Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Invitational last Tuesday at the MHS Gym.



Members of the Coalition of Private School Sports Association boy and girls all-start teams pose for a group photo.



MHS Lady Dolphins pose for a team photo after winning the Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Invitational girls division.



Saipan players offer gifts of friendship to the visiting Settsu Red Impulse players.



Saipan Mayor Donald Flores congratulates the participants of the Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Invitational and thanked the Settsu Red Impulse for their third visit to the CNMI.



Both Settsu Red Impulse boys and girls teams pose for a team photo.



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao congratulates the participants of the Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Invitational.



From left, girls individual winners Charlene Lizardo of Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's all-stars, Jodelle Fernandez of the Coalition of Private School Sports Association all-stars, and Marianas High School's Lia Rangamar pose for a group photo with Settsu Red Impulse head coach Yoshihiro Kinoshita.



Some MHS Lady Dolphins pose for a group photo with some visiting Settsu Red Impulse players.



**Mickelson wins
Masters tuneup
in Houston**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Spurs end losing
streak by
beating Suns**

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28 TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Korean pair advances to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Koreans So Young Lee and Heo In Souk survived Marylyn Montano and Jaja Samonte in a three-set semis duel to notch a finals seat in the women's B doubles division of the 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton Competition on Sunday night at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

Lee and Souk won the closely fought first set, 21-18, but missed a semis sweep when Montano and Samonte recovered and nailed a convincing 21-13 victory in the second set.

Then in the deciding third set, it was a back-and-forth match in the opening half of the set before Montano and Samonte committed a couple of errors on the net and hit wide returns, allowing the Korean pair to walk away with a 21-16 triumph.



Lee and Souk will battle the women's B doubles championship against the duo of Christy Villaflor and Gigi Zapanta.

Villaflor and Zapanta defeated Merlie Tolentino and Shirley Kim in straight sets in the other semis pairing, but the sweep was not that easy, as the eventual finalists played an extended game.

Zapanta and Villaflor won the first set after a couple of deuces, 24-22, and the pair showed a lot of nerves in an-

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Heo In Souk, right, goes for a backhand return while teammate So Young Lee looks on during their semis game against Marylyn Montano and Jaja Samonte in the women's B doubles division of the Tan Holdings tournament last weekend at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



MP United clobbers Matansa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



MP United was on target last weekend, as it pounded Tan Holdings FC, 9-1, during their game in the 2011 Women's 11-on-11 League on Saturday at the CPA Field.

Natalie Hill led MP United's juggernaut with her hat-trick in the first half. She scored the team's first two goals in the opening frame and then hit her third one in the closing minutes of the first half to lift MP United to a 5-1 halftime lead.

MP United's two other goals in the first half were courtesy of Carrie Schuler and Melody Matson. Tan Holdings got its lone goal in the

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Carrie Schuler, seen here stopping the ball, scored one goal in MP United's 9-1 demolition of Tan Holdings FC during their game in the women's league at the CPA Field last weekend.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jr. netters battle for NPQ slots

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CNMI junior tennis players aiming to qualify for this year's North Pacific Qualifying Tournament will have their last chance to earn ranking points in next weekend's 2011 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

Only the Top 3 players in girls and boys U18 and Top 4 in the U15 and 12 will represent

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Jake Lee returns to Christian Miller during their U15 singles title game in the PIC tournament last month at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



MGD holds off Hot Shots in Miller Lite caging

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Pacific Trading Co.-MGD bested Island Apparel-Hot Shots, 78-69, in its debut in the 2011 Miller Lite Friendly Basket-



ball Invitational League last Sunday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In other games, Cargo Express-Sea Bridge defeated Ar-

matech, 73-68, in Sunday's opener. Ebisuya Fixers, meanwhile, romped Brabu Pharmacy, 101-66, while Hanwa Hotel & Resort brushed off Blue Hauz, 65-46, back on March 25.

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